The magazine for children

GOKULAM

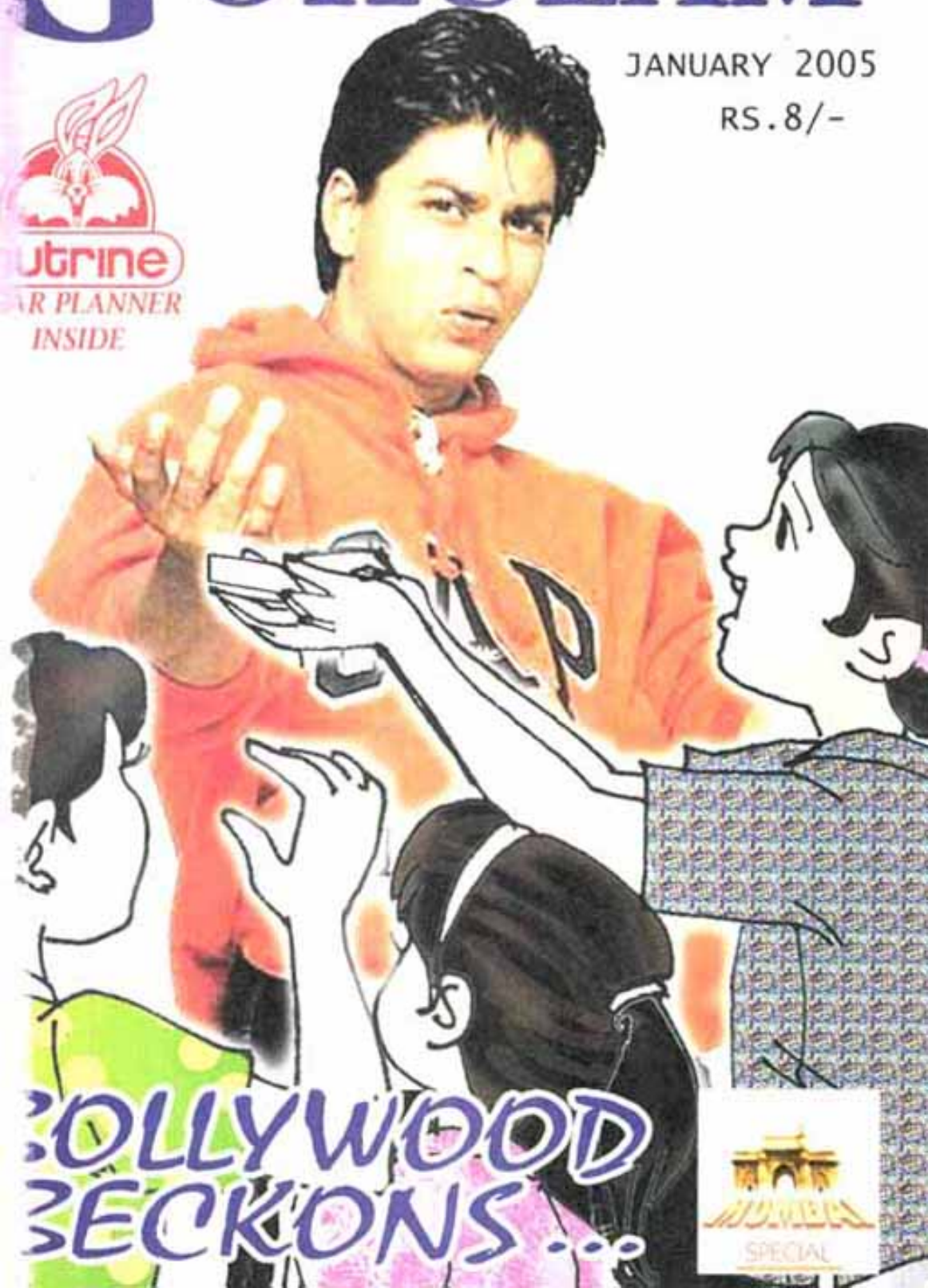
JANUARY 2005

RS.8/-

utrine

R PLANNER

INSIDE



OLLYWOOD

ECKONS...

SPECIAL

SEMAS

ISO-9001:2000 Certified

Academy of Excellence

Japanese - Mental Arithmetic

- Soroban Kids
- Soroban Flash
- Mastering Soroban
- Senior Soroban

Advanced Japanese Abacus Education

BEWARE

SEMAS only offering

Japanese Abacus & Mental Arithmetic System in India

This is a legal information for PUBLIC awareness

SEMAS

Cultivates Six Abilities

- Insight
- Inspiration
- Memorization
- Concentration
- Information Processing
- Speed Reading & Listening

SEMAS solicits GLOBAL franchisee

Corporate Office SEMAS Pvt. Ltd.

545, 14th Street, 4th Sector, K.K. Nagar, Chennai 600 078.

Ph.: 24722550, 24722505, Fax: 24801083

www.semasindia.com Email: info@semasindia.com

www.semasacademy.com

Put this up in your study room. Jot down tests, exams, contests, etc. Plan for a successful NEW YEAR 2005!

YEAR PLANNER 2005
41 to 48

SPECIAL

BOLLYWOOD BECKONS... 9

NEW Tomo in Tanzania 4

Endearing M.S. *(Personality)* 6

Kidnapped 12

Potter Chatter 28

Spiritual Caves *(Temple Treasures)* 60

City of Dreams *(Travel)* 76

NEW The Spy Kids 36 (Serial Story)

GOKULAM CALENDAR 40,49

JANUARY 2005 Vol. XVII, No.7

GOKULAM

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

MUMBAI SPECIAL

Clues Across :

1. Planetarium in Mumbai (5)

6. This animal recently terrorised Mumbaikars (7)

7. ..... Bhavan. The Governor's residence (3)

9. Vada ....., a popular snack (3)

11 & 24. Mumbai is surrounded on ..... sides by the ..... (3, 3)

12. Acronym for Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Trombay (4)

14. India's premier technical institute at Powai (3)

16 Across and 20. Down : Mumbai's popular 'eat out' item (4, 4)

17. Bal Thackeray is the Shiv ..... Supremo (4)

19. Main festival of Mumbai (7)

22. Private insurance company headquartered in Mumbai (4, 3)

25. Asia's largest slum (7)

Clues Down :

1. Principal Business District of Mumbai on reclaimed land (7, 5)

2. Off shore dargah (4, 3)

3. ..... hotels serve economy South Indian cuisine (5)

4. World Heritage site; Caves (9)

5. Mahakali & Kanheri are ..... in Mumbai (5)

8. Temple of this Goddess is said to bring prosperity to the city (9)

10. Now known as C.S.T., it was earlier called ... Terminus (8)

13. Famous beach, in reverse (4)

15. ..... off at the Royal Palms Golf course in Goregaon (3)

17. Mumbai's international airport is located here (5)

18. Acronym for National Sports Club of India (4)

20. See 16 Across

21. Acronym, in reverse, of the company owning the city's buses. (4)

23. Film : 'Bombay to .....' (3)

- Vijeeta Balasundaram, Std.VI, Lilavatibai Podar High School, Mumbai

MUMBAI CROSSWORD

Solutions on Page 11

GOKULAM

printed and published at
Bharathan Press
on behalf of
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032

editor, printer and publisher :
K. Rajendran

layouts :
S. Stephen
P.R.Rajan

telephones :
22345622, 23, 24
fax :
044 - 22345621

e-mails :

editorial :
gokulam@kalkiweekly.com

subscriptions :
subscription@kalkiweekly.com

other information :
info@kalkiweekly.com

subscription rates :

inland : annual
Rs.96/-

overseas : annual
25 US Dollars
Sri Lanka Rs.425

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR IN INDIA
(other than Southern States)
India Book House Pvt.Ltd.
Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune,
Delhi, Kolkatta

The Magazine for Children

WHEN MUMBAI THRIVES. INDIA PROSPERS!

Dear Readers,

Gateway of India; Tajmahal Hotel; Elephanta caves; Queen's necklace; Lakshminarayan temple; Malabar hills and ofcourse Bollywood - Mumbai is famous for all these and more.

But have you wondered what gives character

to a city? It depends on the people living in that city! Mumbaiites are traditionally business minded and that is what makes Mumbai the Business Capital of India. Today, it perhaps has more M.B.A.s and Marketing managers than any other city in India. It is a beehive of business activity, big and small, and the exports from Mumbai tops the list of all other ports in India. The result is that Mumbai is the richest city in India and also the costliest. Business is in their blood. When Mumbai thrives, India prospers.

But have you noticed the slums adjacent to the skyscrapers and the old dilapidating buildings not far from the posh, ever expanding city? The richest of the rich and the poorest of the poor live in Mumbai. Much needs to be done to improve the standard of living of the latter, not only in Mumbai but all over India. When this happens India will really shine!

- Editor

TOMO IN TANZANIA
Text and Illustration : J.Disney
I want you to capture a fierce rhino for me Capin.
Tomo will help me.
Hey Polo! We're going to catch a rhino!
I hate hurting animals.
You must not shoot at animals.
Oh no! I seldom shoot.
Later that day
Oh, a charging rhino!
Run, hide
Stop or I'll shoot
Yikes!
Boot!
Swing!
My horn!
I hate shooting animals.
I was only going to immobilise him by shooting an anaesthetic needle into him, stupid!

In Tanzania, I saw Mount Kilimanjaro; it rises majestically from a flat plain close to the Indian Ocean. It is the highest mountain in Africa and one of the largest free standing mountains in the world. Elevation : 19,335 ft (5,895 m). Located at a mere 3 degrees south of the equator, its summit is the only place where there is permanent ice and snow in the whole of Africa. It was formed by a gigantic explosion from three volcanic centres about two million years ago. Kilimanjaro towers above the Great Rift Valley, the possible birthplace of humankind.

Endearing M.S.!

"We made our own lollipops! When the elders in the house were having their afternoon siesta, we would pop into the kitchen, pound some salt, chilli and tamarind together into a pulp and stick it to the end of a stick! These were the yummiest lollipops I've tasted!" Legendary musician M.S. Subbulakshmi disclosed this to kids like you in Gokulam (Tamil - Feb. '89).

"My 'make-up' kit consisted of 'kaajal' for the eyes and kumkum for the forehead. I noticed the girl next door dabbing face powder. Not to be left behind, I rubbed the white washed walls with my fingers and my own version of face powder was ready! My mother would apply oil, then spread my long, thick, curly tresses out on the washing stone in the backyard and wash the hair with shikakai!"

About her, debut on stage she said. "My mother was to perform at the nearby school. One moment I was at home, playing in the mud. Suddenly somebody had dusted me and carried me off to the stage. My mother asked me to sing and I sang. I didn't even realise the importance of the thunderous ovation."

"I loved listening to gramaphone records. I would pick up any object resembling HMV's logo and pretend to be the gramaphone singer. Little did I know that there would come a day when I would cut my first disc! I was ten years old when my dream came true!"

It is this childlike simplicity even in the pinnacle of her glory which probably endeared 'Bharat Ratna' M.S. to millions of people all over the world. She loved children and children loved her too. As a newly married young maiden, she was left a brood of children to bring up. She lavished all her love and affection on them - fed, oil-bathed and clothed them. On mon-

lit nights she would gather the children on the terrace around her and ladle out a ball of curd rice with a drop of 'Vattral Kuzhambu' (a hot- sour delicacy) into each tiny palm, by turns!

Not only her own family, but any child who visited her would be greeted with chocolates and affection. So many kids aspiring to be musicians would call on her and sing before her. She would welcome them, listen with rapt attention, encourage and bless them. Even suggestions and criticisms would be worded sweetly so as not to hurt the child. "Practise as much as you can. You'll reach great heights" she would say. "This line was wonderful, do you mind singing it once again for me," she would cajole.

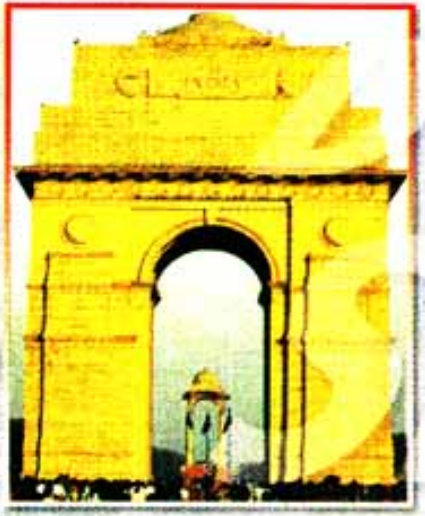
Anyone who wishes to excel, to attain perfection, in any field has only to look upto this multifaceted person.

She had known in her childhood what it was to be poor, insecure and marginalised. So, although she was a devout Hindu (her stotras are played in all the temples and homes across the country), she remained secular and staunch in her cultural beliefs untouched by all the name, fame and greatness that she achieved.

As early as 1966, she was invited to perform at the United Nations, she sang 'Maitreem Bhajata' a special composition on world peace. Subsequently she sang this piece as a finale in all her concerts.

No sooner than she received, she donated. Her magnanimity was shared by her husband Sri Sadasivam who was also her friend, philosopher and guide. Besides giving away all that she earned she gave of herself, unstintingly and selflessly.

Undoubtedly her divine music enamoured us, but it was this quality that endeared her to all of us - children and adults alike. M.S. is no longer in our midst. May her child-like simplicity lead us from darkness to light.



Calling for contributions from the capital city of India! We are sure the (Old and New) Delhi readers have a lot to tell us. After all Delhi has been the seat of power and governance for ages!

Come on, grab your pens and get going.

Anything goes - articles, poems, experiences, jokes etc. etc. Remember to mark the envelope 'Delhi Special'. Enclose pictures if possible and rush them to us latest by 24.01.05, so that they can be featured in our MARCH 2005, DELHI CITY SPECIAL!

DELHI CITY SPECIAL!

MUMBAI SPECIAL

COVER STORY

BOLLYWOOD BECKONS...!

Bollywood, the 'desi' version of Hollywood, located at Goregaon, has produced many a blockbuster and a large number of stars and superstars.

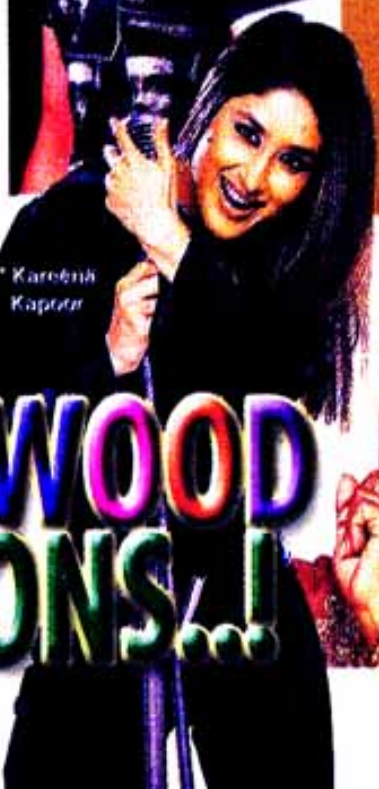
India's first exposure to motion picture was in 1896, when six soundless films were unveiled in Watson Hotel, Bombay. Save Dada was the first Indian to produce two films in 1899. Since then the film industry has never looked back. Dada Saheb Phalke produced the first totally indegenous (silent) feature film, Raja Harishchandra in 1913 while 'Alam Ara' the first Indian 'Talkie' was released at the Majestic Cinema at Mumbai.

Prithviraj Kapoor (1906-1972) was the patriarch of the legendary Kapoor 'khandaan' (clan). His career spanned the silent film era to the Bollywood films and he is the most cherished actor of Indian film histo-

* Madhuri in Devdas

* Hrithik

*Aishwarya



* Karishma Kapoor

*Kajol

ry. His sons, Raj, Shammi and Shashi were great actors in their own right. Raj Kapoor blended western style romance with social revolt and glittering showmanship. Some of his films were popular even in foreign countries like Russia!

Amitabh Bachan has been voted Indian cinema's greatest actor of all time and immortalised at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, London. 'Big B' as he is known, is still going strong, like in the recent K3G with costars - his wife Jaya, Shahrukh, Hritik, Kajol and Karina Kapoor.

Hritik Roshan, 'the green eyed boy of the millenium' became an instant hit with his debut film 'Kaho Na Pyar Hai.'

* Lagaan

* 1857 The Rising

Bollywood has created stars out of South Indian film heroines. Notable amongst them are Vyjayanthimala, Padmini, Hemamalini (Dream girl), Jayaprada and Sridevi and ofcourse the undisputable Queen of Hearts today, reputed to be the most beautiful woman on earth, Aishwarya Rai! ('Ash' was Miss World 1994)

Our 'cover hero' Shahrukh Khan, started his career on small screen with the serial 'Fauji' and skyrocketed into a superstar in Bollywood with films like Baazigar, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai and Devdas. The most expensive Hindi film ever made was Devdas where the costumes and sets are exquisite. Multifaceted personality that he is, Shahrukh has acted in a wide range of roles from anti-hero to hero! He plays the role of a patriot in his latest film 'Swades'. He has also lent his voice to the Hindi version of Disney's animation character, Mr. Incredible! He had a miraculous escape as grenades exploded near the dais, when he was participating in a charity show in Colombo recently. The other Khan, the well known Aamir Khan, the heart beat of teenagers, came into the limelight with Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak and Dil Chahta Hai with Preity Zinta.

Indians are passionate about films, cricket and music, in that order. Aamir Khan capitalised on this and produced musical love stories like K3G and the magnum opus, Lagaan! With a spirited and well crafted story the film grossed about $2 million in N. America and

* Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham

Britain, apart from being India's third Oscar nomination (after Mother India and Salaam Bombay). Even the bat with which Aamir hit the winning sixer in Lagaan was auctioned and fetched Pak Rs.60 lakhs for Imran Khan's cancer hospital! Amir Khan's '1857 The Rising' on a five crore budget will be released shortly.

Mumbai's cricketers and Bollywood should have been a deadly combination in India, offering plenty of moolah, glamour and fame. However somehow Indian audiences have rejected films starring cricketers. Sandeep Patil, Sunil Gavaskar, Salim Durrani, Vinod Kambli, Ajay Jadeja and Salil Ankola starrers have all flopped at the box office! Infact, an Anil Kumble starrer has recently been shelved.

* Prithviraj

As for music, Bollywood can boast of playback singers like Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle and music directors like S.D Burman, A.R. Rehman etc.

Bollywood stars play a big part in Indian elections too! Unlike their southern counterparts, most stars restrict themselves to campaigning, although some of them (Sunil Dutt, Shatrugun Sinha, Dharmendra, Shabhana Azmi, Jayaprada etc) have even made it to parliament!

* Kapoor Clan

Bollywood has indeed produced a glittering array of stars, musicians, cinematographers, directors etc. Some of them are recognized worldwide and more and more Hollywood productions are looking for joint ventures with them.

SOLUTION TO MUMBAI CROSSWORD (On Page 2)

Across : 1. Nehru 6. Leopard 7. Raj 9. Pav 11 & 24 all, sea 12. BARC 14. IIT 16 Ac. & 20 Dn. Bhel Puri 17. Sena 19. Ganpati 22. Tata AIG 25. Dharavi

Down : 1.Nariman Point 2. Haji Ali 3. Udupi 4. Elephanta 5. Caves 8. Mahalaxmi 10. Victoria 13. Uhuj 15. Tee 17. Sahar 18. NSCI 21. TSEB 23. Goa

KIDNAPPED!

Two well known scientists Ravi and Rajiv had been kidnapped. They had been working on sensitive projects relating to national security. A 'foreign hand' was suspected in the kidnapping. It could also have been the handiwork of 'Rajappan', a forest brigand.

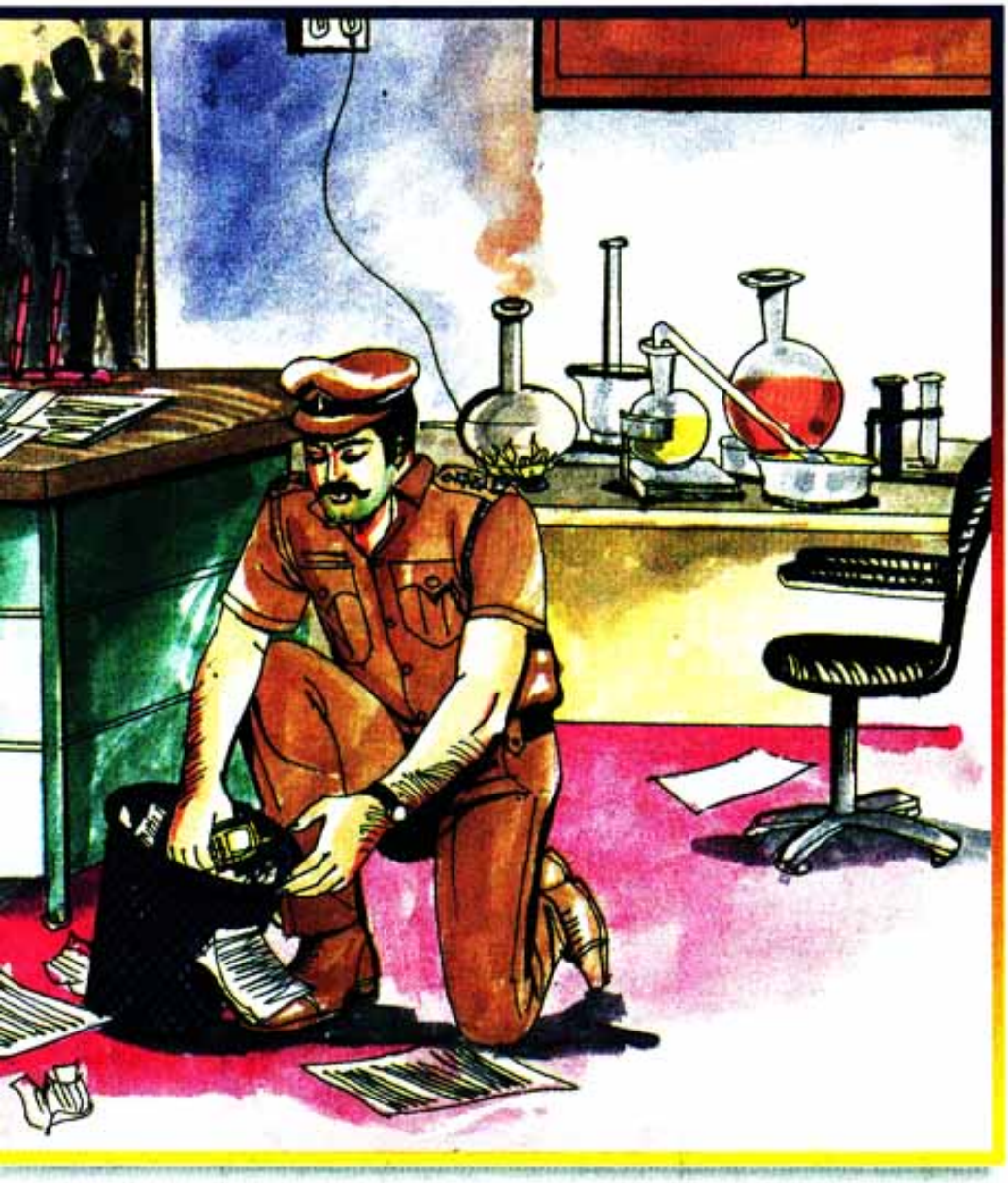
The police team headed by Inspector Jayaram, rushed to their laboratory, which was in fact, a part of Dr. Ravi's house. Dr. Ravi lived alone and the two scientists worked odd hours undisturbed.

Inspector Jayaram had alerted all the checkposts and sealed the borders of the city. He along with ten cops, fanned out in all directions to gather clues. Jayaram himself entered the room where the two had been working. It seemed undisturbed except for the sheaf of papers scattered all over the study table. The computer was still 'on' with a screen saver. Apparently the kidnapper(s) had got away without a scuffle.

'No fingerprints.... a few boot marks....' Jayaram was making mental notes, when 'Tin... Tinn... Tinn....' the incessant ring of the cellphone halted him in his tracks. He rushed to the wastepaper basket. The ringing sound seemed to be emanating from there. He picked up the cellphone from it.

Before he could even say 'hello', Dr. Rajiv informed him in a loud whisper about their whereabouts and cut off the line. He had given the inspector the exact location of the abandoned house where they were being held hostage. It was in the outskirts of the city.

Inspector Jayaram and his team rushed to the bungalow. Three burly kidnappers were loading their guns with bullets. The policemen came upon



them from behind and overpowered them. Inspector Jayaram rescued the scientists, while the cops whisked the kidnappers away. Dr. Ravi had cleverly dropped his cellphone into the waste paper basket without the kidnappers' knowledge and Dr. Rajiv had been able to inform the Inspector at the right moment over his own cellphone tucked away in his socks. The scientists had thus helped the police to rescue them and also nab the criminals. A happy ending to the kidnapping drama!

- Akash Nair, 13 years, St. Joseph's Boys High School, Kirkee, Pune

DO MY PARENTS LIKE ME?

Dear Grandma,

I often have rows with my parents. When they scold me, I know it is for my good. But I get offended when they compare me to my sister and ask me to behave like her. I get a feeling that they don't like me. Please suggest a way out.

- Rashmi Prakash, Bangalore.

Dear Rashmi

Next time your parents scold you, tell them politely that you are sorry and that you will behave better in future. The matter will end there and quickly too. Both sides will forget the incident and carry on as though nothing has happened. But when a big issue is made out of a small problem, the matter drags on and on and both sides are unable to forget it. This results in mental agony.

You have rightly said that your parents take you to task for your own good. When such is the case why create a big row? Whenever we realise that we have erred, we must have the courage to accept it.

A word for your parents too : Do not compare your daughter to her sister, or anyone else for that matter. This creates unnecessary friction, jealousy, inferiority complex etc. in young minds. Talk to them often, listen to their problems and help them. Children need your loving support. Play with them and tell them stories of great people. You can make them behave better through kind words rather than harsh reprimands.

★★★

Some people say that I am a sensitive person. Is being sensitive, bad?

- R. Rithvik, Chennai

Dear Rithvik,

Being sensitive is not at all bad. On the other hand it is an asset. Only a sensitive person can adore the

beauties of nature, appreciate the nuances of literature and admire the intricacies of the fine arts. But one should not be touchy. If you are mimicked, don't get angry; have a sense of humour and laugh it off. If you are criticised, have the courage to do some self analysis and retrospection.

★★★

I am nine years old and have grown very fat. I am also short for my age. I can't resist the temptation of eating. Please help.

- Arnab Mishra, Bhubaneswar

Dear Arnab,

Some parents want their babies to be chubby and overfeed them. The children become compulsive eaters and grow fat. Recent research has proved that this is not good and parents have been warned. In your case, I would suggest that (a) you gradually reduce intake - don't starve (b) Gradually reduce fatty food and increase fibrous vegetables etc. (c) Start exercising - gradually increasing the speed and also the duration. The easiest and best exercise is walking (d) Make periodical visits to your family doctor to check your general health and to find out if your obesity is due to some other cause like hormonal deficiency.

★★★

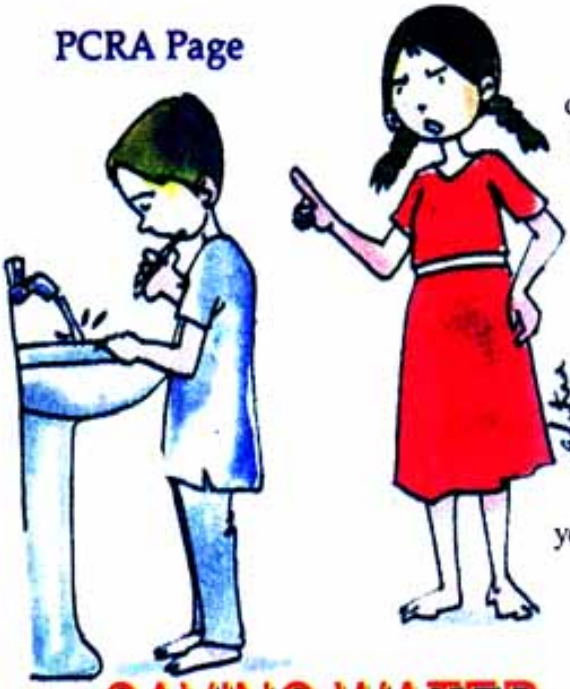
My friend tells me that I can start writing while studying. Please give me a few tips.

- M. Sameer Mohamed, Melathurpanthuruthi

Dear Sameer,

Ofcourse you can start writing while studying. You have to pursue it as a hobby during your leisure hours. To become a writer you must have a flair for writing. You must be able to write without grammatical and factual errors., You will have to observe life around you. You should also read a lot of books - the kind of books that you would like to write. Study the way the plot develops, the characterisation, dialogues, style of the author etc. Then think - if you had written the book, in what ways would it be different or better? These exercises will help you to blossom into a writer. Above all, you must have a lot of patience. Be prepared to wait for years before seeing your writing in print!

Love,
Grandmaworm



SAVING WATER- NEED OF THE HOUR

Chandru was at the washbasin brushing his teeth. The tap was running. Vidya walked upto him.

"Hey Chandru, what are you doing? Admiring the tap, eh?"

"I'm brushing my teeth, can't you see, you dud?"

"Should you let the water run while you take your own sweet time? Why can't you keep a mugful? Why, waste so much water?"

"You are right. Vidya, look there. The overhead tank is overflowing."

"Oh, God! Daddy, please switch off the motor (pump) quickly. So much water gets wasted everyday. Maybe we could set the alarm for a particular time and switch off the motor before the tank overflows."

"You're right, Vidya. Why don't you take charge of this chore everyday?"

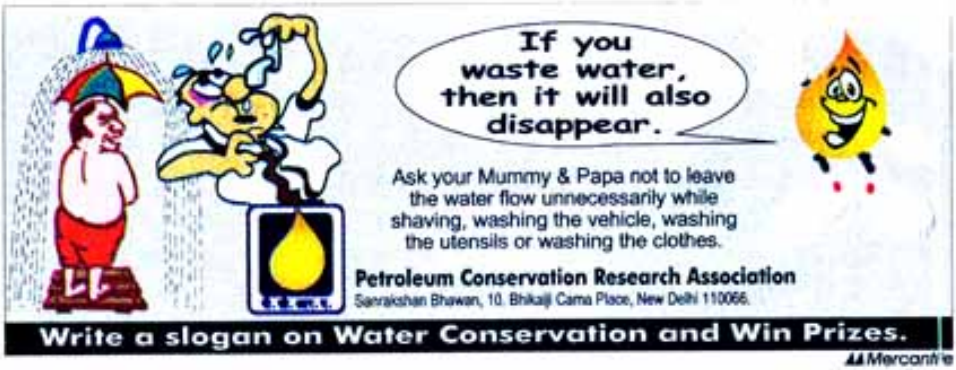
"Sure, daddy!"

"Vidya, you don't need to wash your own clothes", said mom.

"Why? Won't you find it tough to wash everybody's clothes?"

"It's tough. Yes. but one has to think of conserving precious water too. If each one of us wash our clothes separately, we seem to be using so much extra water. That's why, I thought I'll do all the washing myself," explained mom.

"Good idea. I'll help you with the washing. That way we save water, at the same time the job will get done easily," offered Vidya.



FUN TIME!

Dentist *(after thorough examination)* **:** I have good news and bad news for you.

Patient : Give me the good news first.

Dentist : Your teeth are in very good shape.

Patient : Then what is the bad news?

Dentist : Your gums are so bad that I'll have to extract all your teeth!

- K. Satish, Std.VIII, Dombivili (W)

Signboard at a clothes store :

"Special discount for persons aged 85 and above." (In small print) "Provided they are accompanied by their parents!"

- Ankitha R. Kartha, Std.IX, Thrissur

Miser : God, How much is a million years to you?

God : A minute.

Miser : How much is a million rupees to you?

God : A rupee.

Miser : Then O God! Please give me a rupee.

- N. Chokalingam, Std.X, Thanjavur.

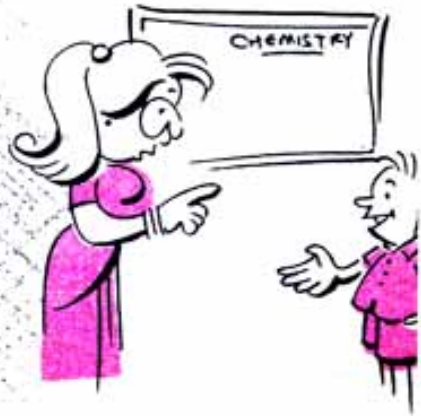
ChemistryTeacher : Can you give me the formula for water?

Student : H I J K L M N O

Teacher : I said water!

Student : You told me it's H to O

- Varsha, Std.X, Bangalore.



LOST AND FOUND!

LEFT BEHIND!

When I was four years old, I went to a temple with my neighbours in their car. Since my younger brother was a baby everyone at home took more care of him.

After we came back, my neighbours got off the car, locked it up and went indoors. They did not notice that I had been left behind, locked up in their car!

I cried and screamed. I banged at the windows with my fists, but nobody noticed. I was terrified. After two hours my grandma realised that I was missing, searched everywhere, asked my neighbours and finally rescued me! I still can't get over this incident.

- S. Prashanthi,
Std.VI,
PSBBSS School,
Chennai

GANPATI FRENZY!

'Ganpati' festival is celebrated with a lot of fanfare by everyone in Mumbai. Residents of each apartment building get together and install a Ganesh idol.

When I was 10 years old, the Ganesh idol of our apartment building was being taken for 'visarjan' (immersion). All the children began to dance to the rhythm of the drum. I became so involved in dancing that I didn't know when I started moving towards another group. I was separated from my group. Suddenly when I couldn't spot any familiar face, I realised what had happened. I started crying. Luckily a man from the group of our apartment building spotted me. Soon I breathed a sigh of relief upon seeing my friends and parents.

- Subha Narayanan,
Std.XI, Vani Vidyalaya,
Dombivli (E)

MUMBAI SPECIAL

STRAY KITTENS!

On a rainy day in June, I found two kittens lying in my porch. They were a cute snow-white pair, huddled together, shivering in the cold.

I carried them carefully indoors. My mother scolded me for bringing in stray animals. I pleaded with her and she reluctantly let me keep them in a carton, but outside the house. I made a warm bed for them with old clothes and gave them some milk and bread. I named them Kitty and Appu. I even covered the box with a piece of net, to keep off mosquitoes.

My mother told me that their mother would come and feed them. On the third day, when I returned from school they were missing. I cried. I didn't have my snacks that evening. My dad said that 'mother

cat' would have carried them away to a safer place. My mother assured me that they would come to me after they grew up. But still I feel sad and miss them even now.

- Ashwin Shyam, Std. IV,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Tripunithura

MEDITATION FOR MEMORY!

• **Himanshi Sahu, Korba Chattisgarh**

? I am in Std VIII. My memory is weak. Can you suggest any exercises to improve memory?

! Meditation will help you to improve memory. Meditation means forgetting yourself completely and enjoying the pleasant experience in depth, mentally and physically.

Watch a child eating an ice cream. His eyes look passionately at the colours of the ice cream, first. Then he smells it. Thereafter he closes his eyes and relishes it with his tongue. All his sensory organs enjoy the luxurious taste of the ice-cream.

While studying, try doing the same thing. Once you start reading a book, be attentive. Slowly concentrate and reach a stage of meditation wherein you cease to hear the sounds around you. Nothing should distract your attention. Nothing should reach your brain except the subject on which you concentrate. If you can reach this state of mind, it is enough for you to read the subject only once, to retain it in your memory.

• **Rupai, Kharagpur.**

? My friend stammers. Is it a genetic problem or is there something wrong with her tongue?

! Speech requires the complete coordination of larynx, cheeks, tongue and lips. A person who stammers, lacks such co-ordination. Spasms occur in the speech muscles and hence he gets stuck with the first sound. For e.g., instead of saying mother, he says "m-m-mother". Physiologically, speech involves co-ordination of many aspects of the

brain's functions. Diseases of these parts of the brain can lead to stammering. Usually this disorder is connected with emotional disturbances like fear, anxiety and nervousness. Heredity can also play a part.

• B.Sai Kumar, Hyderabad

? I weigh 43 Kgs and my height is 4'12". I get severe joint pains.

When I checked the health calendar it said that at age 14, I should weigh between 35-38 Kgs. Why am I having joint pain?

! I feel you are suffering either from rheumatic arthritis or osteoarthritis of the knees. Get investigations done and get treated accordingly. Physiotherapy and weight reduction techniques could also help to some extent in your case.

• K.Sukanya, Karaikal

? When we wear spectacles, we get dark circles and "specs mark" round our eyes. What can we do to prevent this?

! Use weightless spectacles. Avoid using metal or plastic frames. Fibre frames are better. Change the knob that is touching the sides of the nose once in three months. If you still have a problem, then, apply a steroid cream over the 'specs mark' and then put on your spectacles.

• S. Gomathi, Nagarkoil

? I suffer from frequent bouts of cold. I often vomit food while coughing. Please suggest some remedy.

! Vomiting while coughing especially during bouts of cold is not a cause for worry because it clears the air passages blocked by mucus. Cold is a very common problem amongst children. Some preventive measures could help in reducing these attacks. Avoid playing in the mud, iced drinks or going into an AC room after sweating profusely. Avoid rooms with smokers around. A diet of fruits and vegetables would strengthen the immunity and thereby reduce the frequency of bouts of cold.

GOKULAM

The magazine for children

IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION DUE FOR RENEWAL?

Subscribe now!

FREE

WITH EVERY TWO / THREE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

Name : .....

Address : .....

: .....

..... **Pin** : .....

Period : ☐ **1 year** Rs.96/- ☐ **2 years**** Rs.192/- ☐ **3 years**** Rs.288/-

Amount enclosed : Rs. ☐ (DD / MO / Cheque*, favouring 'Gokulam') * ADD Rs. 20/- for Outstation cheques

**** FREE!**

Book worth Rs.39.50 'Fat is Beautiful and other Jayabalan Stories' with a two / three year subscription

**until stocks last

The Circulation Manager
Gokulam
'Kalki Buildings',
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 032.
E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com

Name : **M. Joyson**

Age : 11

Address : 4/616, Rajendra Nagar, Neelangarai, Chennai - 600 041

Hobbies : Playing hockey, kabbadi, cricket and video games, reading Gokulam

Name : **M.V. Soumya**

Age : 13

Address : 1A, Sai Gardens, Sainikpuri, Defence Colony, Secunderabad

Hobbies : Painting, planting trees, reading books, playing practical jokes on friends, watching films and listening to music.

Name : **S. Sonali**

Age : 13

Address : 'Sonali' House, D.No. 1/17/41, Landlines Township, Derebail, Konchady, Vidyanagar, Manglore - 575 008

Hobbies : Reading, painting, drawing, playing chess, painting in computer, watching television.

Name : **P. Nagarjuna**

Age : 14

Address : Q.No. C-71, A.G. Colony, Yousufguda, Hyderabad.

Hobbies : Philately, reading, playing cricket

Name : **Aman Kumar**

Age : 12

Address : C/o Dr. R.K. Gaur, Indira Nagar, Banda - 210 001. U.P.

Hobbies : Playing cricket, football, badminton and swimming

BUSY BUDDIES!

Name : **N. Vijayashree**

Age : 10

Address : 4/922, III Cross St, Vaidyalingam Salai, Neelankarai, Chennai - 600 041.

Hobbies : Playing video games, watching T.V, reading Gokulam, playing kabbadi

Name : **S. Vismitha**

Age : 11

Address : D.No.19/1, 15th Cross, 6th Temple Street, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560 003.

Hobbies : Playing badminton and basketball, stamp collecting,

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

* You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your **- Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).**

However, we cannot guarantee that your contribution will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contribution to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

- Editor

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2005, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize.

travelling, reading story books & making friends.

Name : **R. Vimal Raj**

Age : 14

Address : 4/894, M.A. Vithyalingam Salai, 3rd Cross Street, Neelangarai, Chennai - 600 041.

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam Playing cricket and chess, writing to pen friends, playing computer games and reading novels.

Name : **S. Nagshree**

Age : 11

Address : 8/1, Sadasivam Nagar, Chandra Enclave, II Link Street, Madipakkam, Chennai - 600 091.

Hobbies:Reading books, painting, writing stories and playing the keyboard.

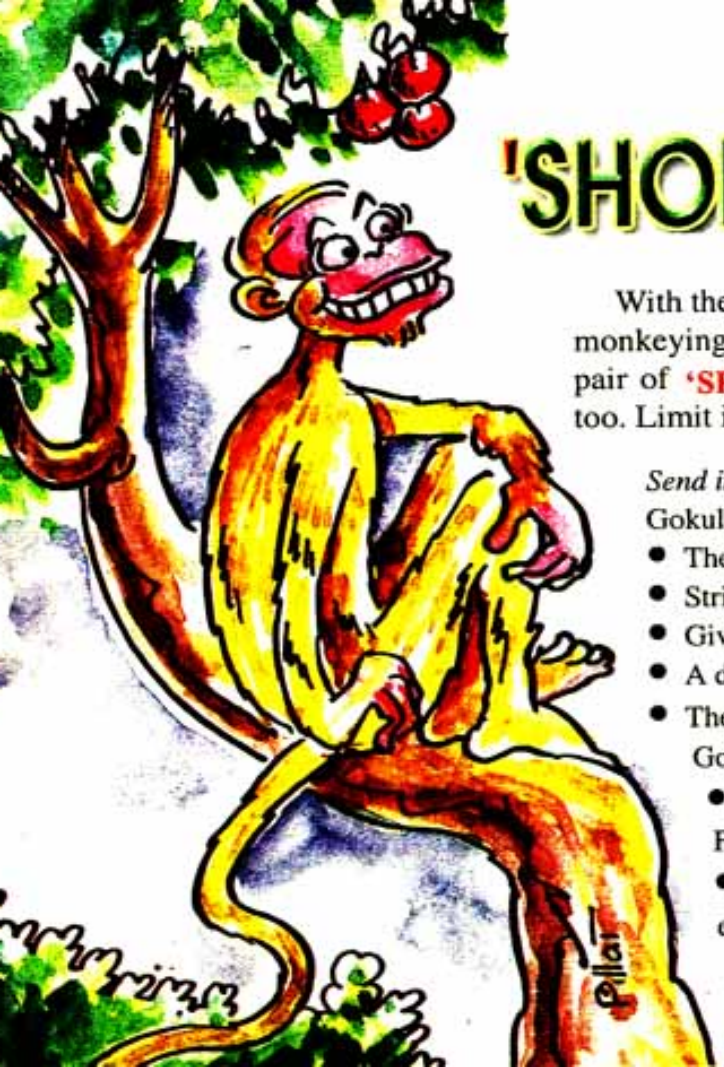
Name : **A. Afshan**

Age : 13

Address : 5B, Janaki Ammal Street, Rangarajapuram, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024.

Hobbies : Singing, dancing, listening to western music, cracking jokes and making funny faces.

A REALLY 'SHORT' STORY CONTEST-7



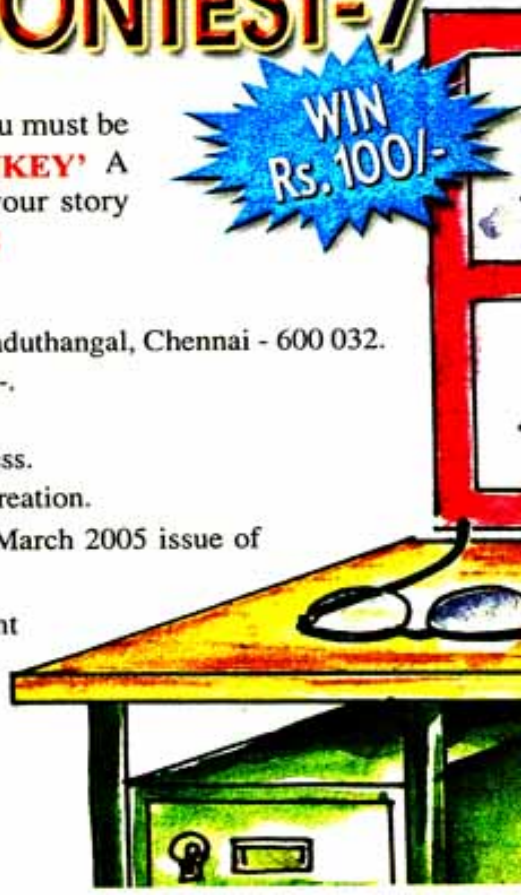
WIN Rs. 100/-

With the onset of the winter vacation, all of you must be monkeying around! Write a story about a **'MONKEY'** A pair of **'SPECTACLES'** must find a place in your story too. Limit it to 350 words. **Last Date 20.1.2005**

Send in your entries to :

Gokulam, 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

- The best entry will receive a prize of Rs.100/-.
- Strictly for school going children.
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story is your original creation.
- The prize winning story will appear in the March 2005 issue of Gokulam.
- Next short story contest announcement February, 2005.
- Mention 'short story contest' on the envelope.
- Editor's decision is final.



JUST TWO MINUTES!

Column IV gives jumbled solutions to problems in I, II, & III. Pick the correct answer and write it against each problem. Time limit : 2 minutes!

I. Multiplication

1	88	X	6	=
2	15	X	9	=
3	72	X	8	=
4	617	X	2	=
5	508	X	5	=
6	967	X	7	=
7	2439	X	4	=
8	1804	X	3	=

II. Division

1	441	÷	7	=
2	546	÷	6	=
3	112	÷	4	=
4	1368	÷	3	=
5	2763	÷	9	=
6	1480	÷	8	=
7	36345	÷	5	=
8	10864	÷	2	=

III. Addition & Subtraction

1	2	3
47	79	90
83	98	72
78	16	-58
95	30	13
60	52	-45
41	62	36
56	89	67
19	70	20
20	41	-84
32	64	91

4	5	6
16	39	83
34	68	50
91	20	-45
70	41	-71
47	35	32
98	76	46
23	59	17
52	40	38
60	32	-90
85	93	62
34	62	-83
95	10	41
18	94	-70
53	25	29
90	83	56

IV. Solution

63	1234	202	7269	307	576	28
88	50	3184	135	100	10	4976
404	28	197	6769	5432	9756	112
10	531	600	601	399	302	55
5412	576	456	185	91	777	528
318	13	720	48	112	5	3184
600	9756	91	5432	202	1234	8
67	866	88	4976	55	95	225
593	7269	2540	777	307	601	399
13	6769	302	404	48	5412	5
100	95	531	63	135	866	22
714	185	318	197	720	456	593
8	528	50	22	225	2540	67

If you can't complete it within two minutes, don't worry. Join SEMAS , learn abacus and become a mathematical genius!

STORY

VICTORY AT A PRICE

It was Sunday, The 'Bet Match' between Madhu's team and ours was in progress. This prestigious cricket match was being played on the road in front of Miss. Shyamala's house, instead of the playground where repair work had been undertaken.

Madhu is an excellent player and captain. Shekhar had just bowled him out and our joy knew no bounds! We were confident of victory. Just then Rakesh hit a ball directly... into Miss Shyamala's garden! Our hearts sank for Miss. Shyamala is reputed to be rude and arrogant towards children. She had a pet dog too!

Rakesh and I scaled the wall with great difficulty and tiptoed into the garden. Probably, Miss. Shyamala was asleep at that time. But to our dismay, our precious, one and only tennis ball was in the dog's mouth!

The dog saw us and started barking. We raced back towards the wall. Seeing our plight, Shekar passed a biscuit packet to us. We offered it to the dog. When the dog was eating, we went on to retrieve our ball.

However, just then the dog saw us. We clambered up a tree. We were already bruised and our clothes were torn. Miss Shyamala had heard the dog bark and came out to investigate. Since she did not find anything amiss, she tied the dog to a pole and went in.

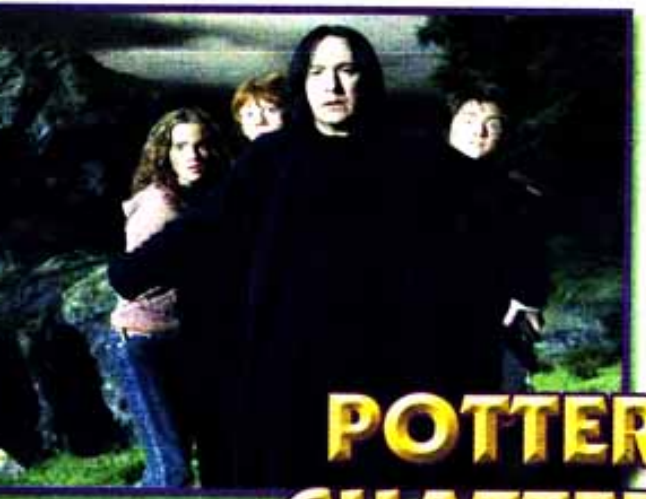
We heaved a sigh of relief, climbed down the tree, smiled mockingly at the dog and were ready to leave the garden with the ball when... "cr...ea...k!" Our hearts missed a beat. Who should walk into the gate but Miss Shyamala's brother!

We blurted out the truth to him. To our surprise, he just laughed aloud, advised us not to play in residential areas and sent us packing.

Battered and bruised, we continued the game and even won it. But for me it was a victory at a price - bruises, a torn shirt, a damaged ball, and last but not the least, whackings from my mother!

- A.Anurag Reddy, Std.VIII,
Nagarjuna High School,
Hyderabad

POTTER CHATTER!



"Once you've read Books 6 and 7 you'll have all the 'story so far' you'll need" said J.K. in one of her online chats.

In Book 6, there will be a new Minister of Magic. Harry becomes even more powerful. We will find out what happened to Hagrid's half brother Grawp. He will be a bit more controllable. The wizarding world is really at war.

In Books 6 and 7 we will find out why Dumbledore trusts Snape, why JK eliminated Sirius and what happened to wormtail aka Peter Pettigrew.

JK has said that giving away the form of Snape's boggart and patronous says too much. We'll definitely find out what Snape's worst fear is, and it'll be important. The reason Voldemort and Harry both didn't die when Voldemort tried to kill Harry, will be revealed. We will see more of Draco's mother, Narcissa Malfoy, now that Lucius is busy and of Harry's scar.

We will learn more about Harry's relatives, including his grandparents. It's very important to the plot that Harry has his mother's eyes, and that her wand was very good for charms. Harry's parents' profession will be a big part of the plot and something huge will be revealed about Lily Potter.

- Ankita Bhat, Std.VII, B.P.M. High School, Mumbai

POTTER CRAZE!

A little wizard boy,
Who gives us joy,
Harry Potter is his name,
He plays the Quidditch game
His friends are Ron and Hermione,
Voldemort his greatest enemy
A spectacled, scarred face,
Harry Potter is a craze!

- Murugesu Durshika, GradeVIII, Colombo, Srilanka

SANKRANTI-CULTURAL DIVERSITY

• Lohri

'Makar Sankranti' traditionally coincides with the beginning of the sun's northward journey (Uttarayan) when it enters the sign of 'Makar' (Capricorn) on 14th January. This day is considered to be the most auspicious day for Hindus when day and night are of equal hours.

In the Mahabharat, Bhishma who was wounded and lying on a bed of arrows is said to have waited for Uttarayan to set in, to breathe his last. (It is believed that a person escapes the cycle of rebirth if he dies on this day.)

According to a legend, Sankrant, a deity is said to have slayed Sankarasur, a demon and hence the name Sankrant.

• Pongal

'Makar Sankrant' is celebrated all over India. Sesame (Til) is used in sweet preparations. Sesame contains oil and is soft. Sweets prepared with sesame signify love and tender feelings. Maharashtrians prepare Tilgud, Til laddus and Til Polis and exchange them with relatives and friends saying "Til-gul ghya, god god bola" ("accept these tilguds and speak sweet words") It is a spe-

• Ganga Sagar

cial day for women.

In Gujarat too, the day is celebrated in much the same way. Gifts are presented by the elderly members of the family to the younger relatives. In Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, Sankranti heralds the onset of spring and the kite flying season.

Natives of M.P. (Bundelkhand) celebrate 'Sukarat' (Sakarat) with great pomp and with sweets. In Uttarpradesh, it is known as 'Kitcheri'. A month long Kumbh Mela is held at the Prayag (confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati) and people bathe there.

Punjab experiences cold wintry conditions, during this period. So bonfires are lit on the eve of Sankrant (Lohri) and Sankrant is celebrated as Maghi with Bhangra dance and feasting!

For the Bengalis, it is the last day of the month of Paush. They bathe at Millat Ganga Sagar, where Ganga is believed to have vivified the ashes of the 60,000 ancestors of Bhagirath.

Tribals light bonfires, dance and feast on this day, their New Year's day. The Bhuya tribals of Orissa have Maghyatra and even have a sale of home made articles!

For the Assamese, Maagh Bihu signifies the end of the harvesting period and a time for feasting on the produce from their lands. It is even called Bhogaali Bihu or the Festival of Food!

For the South Indians, especially for Tamilians, 'Pongal' is the most important festival. Here again it is associated with harvest and is celebrated for 3 - 5 days. On Pongal eve, 'Bhogi', bonfires are lit with old belongings. On 'Pongal' day, rice is boiled in a pot of milk and sweetened with jaggery (made of sugarcane) with the cries of 'Pongalo, pongal'. Worship of the sun god is an essential part of the festival. Next day, 'Maattu Pongal' is a thanksgiving to the cattle when cattle are decorated and well fed.

Devotees throng Sabarimala in Kerala, to witness the 'Makara Jyoti'. The deity here is worshipped and food offerings are made by all, irrespective of caste and creed.

Thus, Makar Sankranti is a unique religious cum social festival and is celebrated throughout the country.

* Kumbh Mela

LETTER BOX

✉ I saw Harry Potter's picture in Gokulam and bought it for the first time. I liked all the articles in the magazine. Gokulam, now I'm your greatest fan. Wishing you and all other fans a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Looking forward to a poster of Harry Potter.

- Tania Das, Std.VIII, Silchar, Assam

✉ I like the stories in Gokulam. My English vocabulary has improved. Awaiting the 'Pongal' issue!

- R. Sri Harini, aged 10, Khammam, Andhra Pradesh

✉ One month is a long wait for Vandu mama's 'Mom, Dear Mom!' Why don't you make Gokulam a weekly? The large participation of children makes Gokulam a truly children's magazine.

- N. Aditya, Std.V, Kochi

✉ I love to read Gokulam, particularly, 'Sports Talk'. In my opinion, the column should 'talk' about hockey apart from cricket!

- Kabak Puyir, Sijosa, Arunachal Pradesh

✉ The Birbal story in the December issue was very amusing. Pottermania is fun. I thank M. Shivaprakash for helping me to get past the 'Donot disturb' door in jkrowling.com. Maybe you could add a 'Book Review' column. Gokulam is becoming more interesting with every issue.

- Padmapriya Govindarajan, Chennai

GREETINGS & RATINGS!

✉ The December issue was indeed a gift of the season for all readers! 'Queen of Peace' in the Editorial captured my eyes and my little heart too! Thank you, Gokulam for the X'mas message. Do accept my New Year Greetings.

- R. Thomas Murphy, Trichy

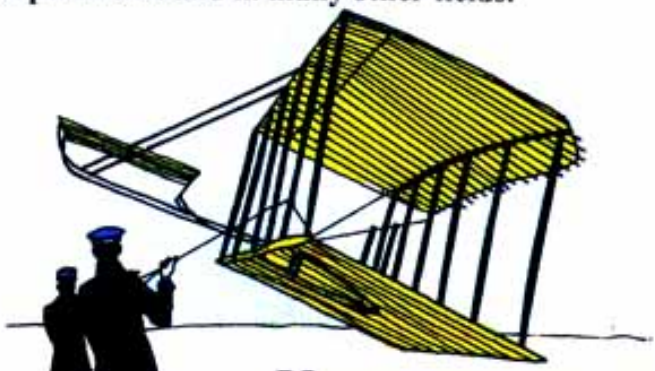
Dr. G. Ganesan has answered readers' queries in the **'Hello Doctor'** column (Meditation For Memory) on Pages 20, 21.

- Editor

SCIENTIFIC KITES!

Aazhi

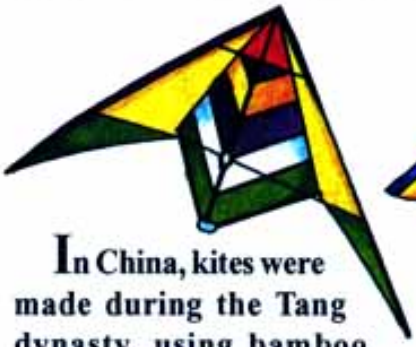
Kites were first created by the Chinese. Kites are not only play things; they are also useful in scientific experiments and in many other fields.



Kites were forerunners of aeroplanes. Initially planes were designed on the lines of kites. Inventors designed a huge kite that could even carry a man aboard!

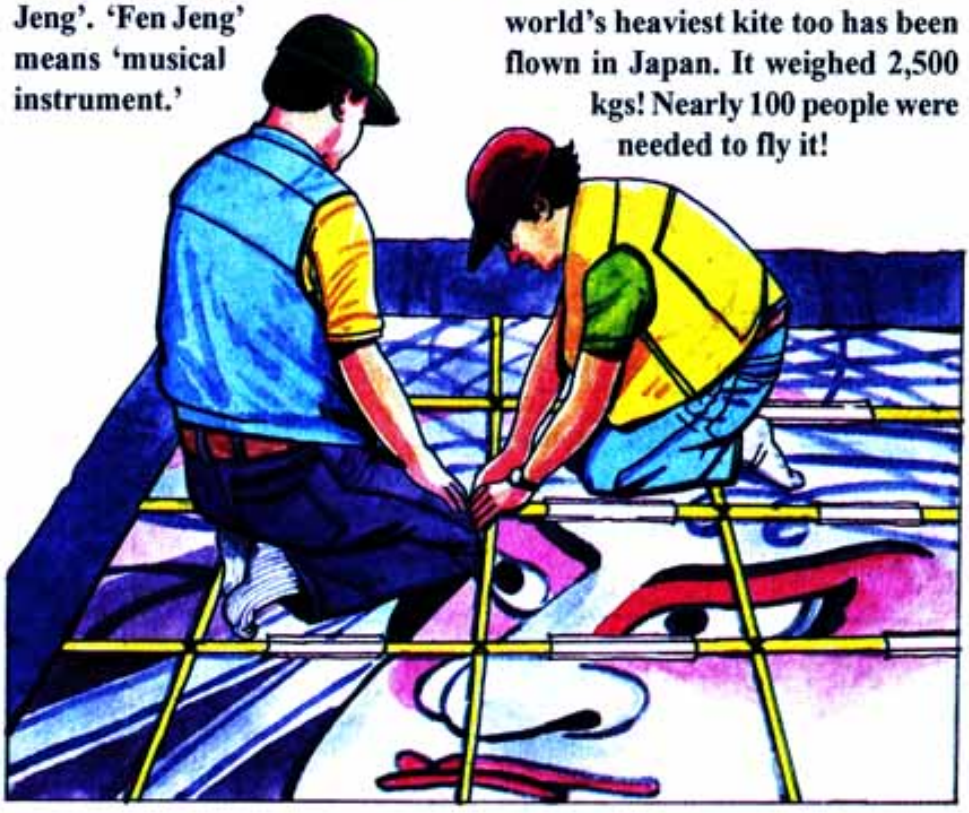
It was only after the discovery of paper that kites were made out of paper. Prior to that they were made of silk cloth. The first kites were made of thin, strong strips of wood. Probably kites were invented about 2200 years ago. Venetian traveller, Marco Polo, has described kites in his travelogues.

Do you know how kites fly? A 'Y' shaped thread is tied to the middle of the kite. A very long, strong, string is then joined to this. Wind hits the bottom of the kite and escapes through the upper sides. Because of this, a high pressure is created at the bottom, and low pressure at the upper ends. Thus, the kite is pushed upwards and is held by the long string. It is only when the lower portion is heavier than the upper portion that the kite will fly without collapsing. To finetune the balance sometimes 'tails' are affixed to kites.



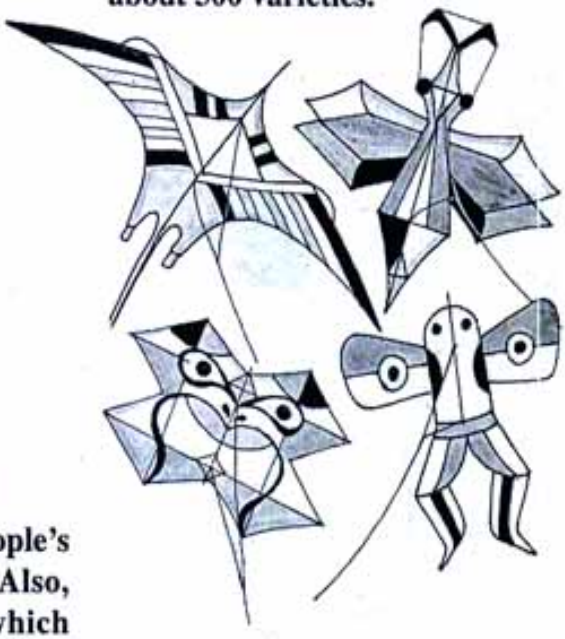
In China, kites were made during the Tang dynasty, using bamboo strips as support. When these kites flew, they produced a musical sound, so they were called 'Fen Jeng'. 'Fen Jeng' means 'musical instrument.'

Kites are made of silk and paper in China. The width of a large Japanese kite was 304 meters and the smallest kite, 30 cm. The world's heaviest kite too has been flown in Japan. It weighed 2,500 kgs! Nearly 100 people were needed to fly it!



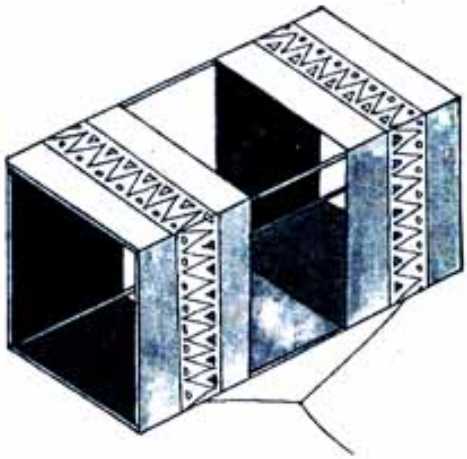
It is in Wyoming, USA that the kite has soared the highest. This kite flew to a height of 5,400 meters.

Chinese, kites come in all shapes and sizes such as animals, birds, fishes and insects. There are about 300 varieties.



Sometimes in China, people's faces are drawn on kites. Also, there are box kites into which lanterns are placed and flown. This creates a wonderful glow in the night sky.

Marconi, who discovered the radio used a kite as an antenna.

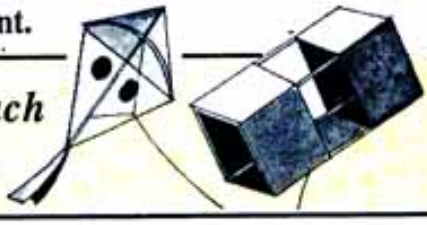


The American scientist, Benjamin Franklin discovered the presence of electricity in lightning using kites. During a rain storm, the kite he was flying was struck by lightning. He received a bad shock through the string and a key connected to it.

Photographers place cameras in box kites to take pictures of the earth from the sky. Meteorologists too send meteorological equipment in kites to obtain weather related data.

An annual kite-flying festival is held in China with many enthusiastic participants. In India, the 'World Kite Festival' is held every year on January 14th (Makar Sankranti day) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Since 1989, the Gujarat Tourist department and the Indian Tourist department have been conducting this event.

There is a kite museum each in Ahmedabad and Tokyo.



NEW

SERIAL CHAPTER-1

THE SPY-KIDS

"Yipee! Hoo! Tour! Tour! Lovely, we are going on a tour! We are going for a holiday," sang Rinu at the top of her voice.

Their's was an upper middle class family who often did not go out on long trips. This was a surprise bonanza for the family. Rinu's father, Mr. Ramesh, had at long last been able to get time off from his office, to go on a holiday with his family to the Nilgiris. Rinu's mother, Kalpana, was a housewife who had spent most of her life looking after her two children Rinu and Manik.

"Manik, don't forget to take a leave letter to school tomorrow. Better get it signed by Daddy today. You may forget tomorrow." advised Ma.

"Yes, ma" replied Manik.

Next day amidst a lot of chaos and confusion, Rinu and Manik who had taken the afternoon off from school, helped their parents pack up things.

"You fool," squealed Rinu. "Don't keep the cold-cream right at the bottom. It will be dry and cold out there in the hills. I'm not digging into the bag, every time I want it. Give it to me" demanded Rinu.

"Here take your precicus cream, Miss

World Beauty! Even Aishwarya Rai won't make such a fuss. Really, Miss Delicate Skin!" sniggered Manik sarcastically as he threw the tube towards Rinu which whirled as if writing 'Miss Delicate Skin' in the air.

"Now, now both of you, stop bickering and hurry up or else we will be late for the train," shouted their mother from the other corner of the room.

"This idiot is causing all the confusion here." scowled Rinu at Manik who stuck out his tongue in reply.

"Where are the socks? Oh, here they are. Good. Oh my God! Where are the sweaters? I'm sure they were here."

"Where is the blue bag? I need to keep these shoes in them. You stupid Rinu, how dare you keep your things in them. That bag is mine. Take out your things right away. Or else...." threatened Manik.

"Or else what?" asked Rinu coolly.

"You will see" snarled Manik and chucked Rinu's neatly folded and packed things onto the bed. Rinu screamed and her mother jumped.

"Stop it! Now!" bellowed

Mrs. Ramesh. "Why don't you give it a rest? I am going mad! With you two playing havoc over here I'm sure I will end up in the mental asylum!" screamed Mrs. Ramesh. "Where is your father now? Struggling with the suitcase belt?" She giggled. "Manik go and help him buckle it."

Manik shot one murderous look at Rinu and went to help his father.

Somehow amidst all the confusion and packing and repacking they managed to reach the railway station on time! Rinu and Manik were still looking daggers at each other a...nd they were off on a happy trip away from the hustle and bustle of the city for one full peaceful week.

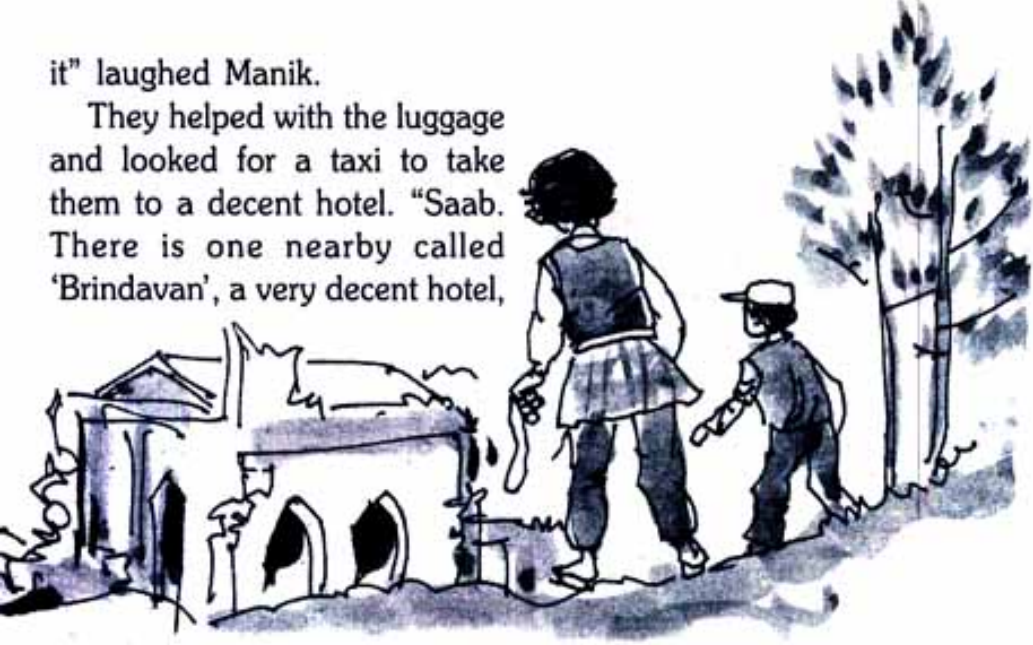
{But was it peaceful? Atleast for Rinu and Manik - No. It was eventful. Both of them plunged headlong into something which changed their holiday into an adventure. What was it?}

The morning dawned bright, beautiful and misty. "Ah... how cold! Every p-p-part of my b-body is ch-h-hilled to the b-bone" chattered Manik as they got off the train in Ootacamund.

"Brr... it is really c..cold. I p-prefer s-s-sitting on f-fire to this c-cold," shivered Rinu as she pulled her sweater closer. "G-Go and s-sit, b-bravo! Let's see how you like the feel of

it" laughed Manik.

They helped with the luggage and looked for a taxi to take them to a decent hotel. "Saab. There is one nearby called 'Brindavan', a very decent hotel,



Saab," said the taxi driver.

"What about the rent?" enquired Mr. Ramesh.

"Quite cheap," replied the taxi driver.

"Ah! Nice room." Said Rinu's mother. Manik flopped on the bed which sent him flying up a few feet! "Wow! Wheee! Here I go again. Want to come, Rinu?" Manik shouted bouncing up and down.

"It is a new bed we just put in, sir." said the attender who entered carrying their suitcases. "Sir, do you want to order anything now?"

"After we have refreshed ourselves. Thank you. Can you bring us a pamphlet of all the tourist spots here?" asked Mr. Ramesh.

"Sure sir," said the attender and left.

After they had their breakfast the family set out for sightseeing. They went to the park first. The place was swarming with tourists. Rinu and Manik did not like crowds, so they wandered off on their own.

They didn't know how far they had gone when they stumbled upon a dilapidated building. Now, a girl who immersed herself in detective and adventure stories couldn't ignore a run down building, could she? Rinu dragged Manik (who mostly read science fiction) to come up and investigate. Just when they neared it, they saw some men creeping out of the building, furtively looking back now and then.

To be continued...

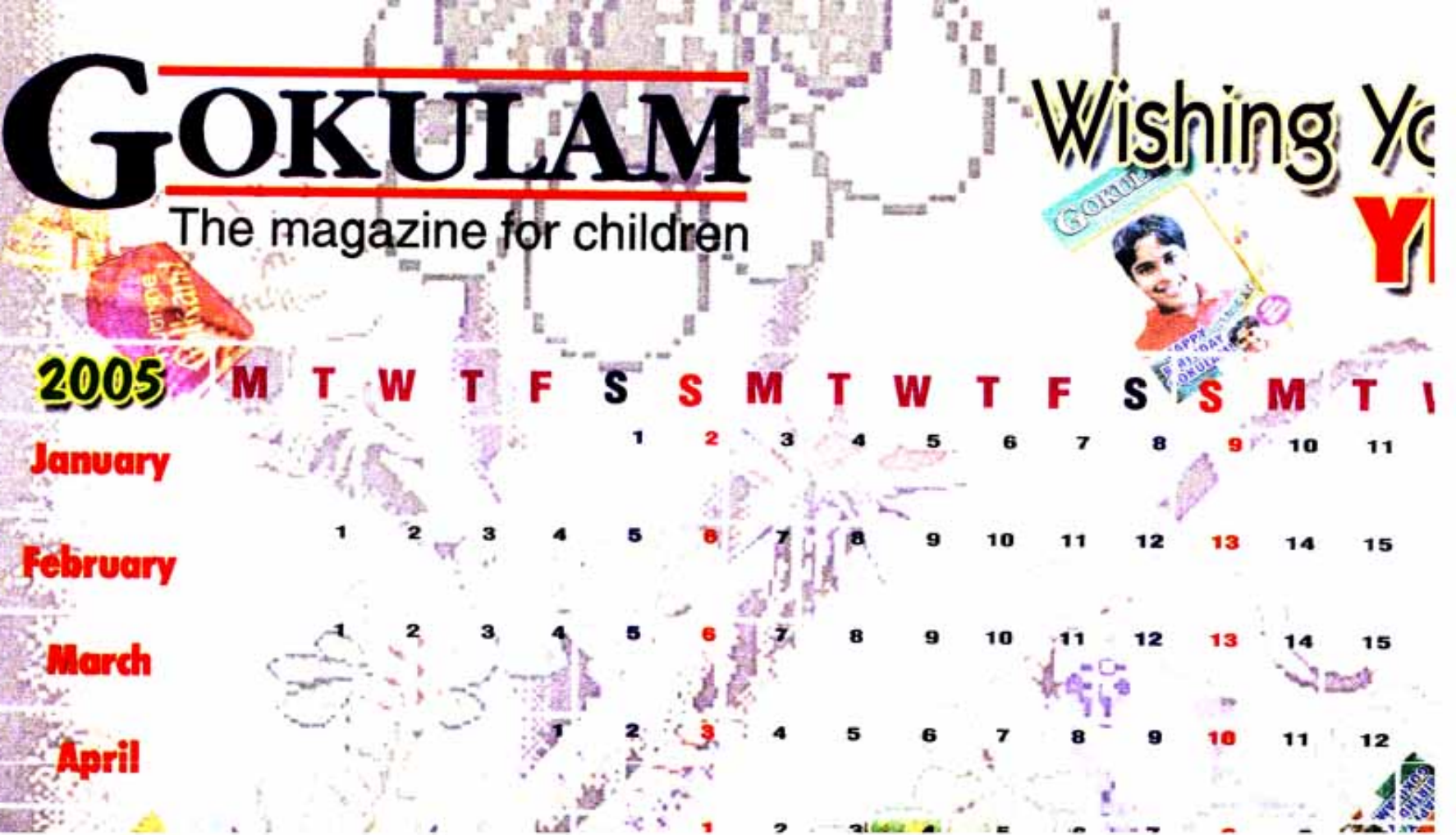
GOKULAM
Calendar 2005
2005

GOKULAM

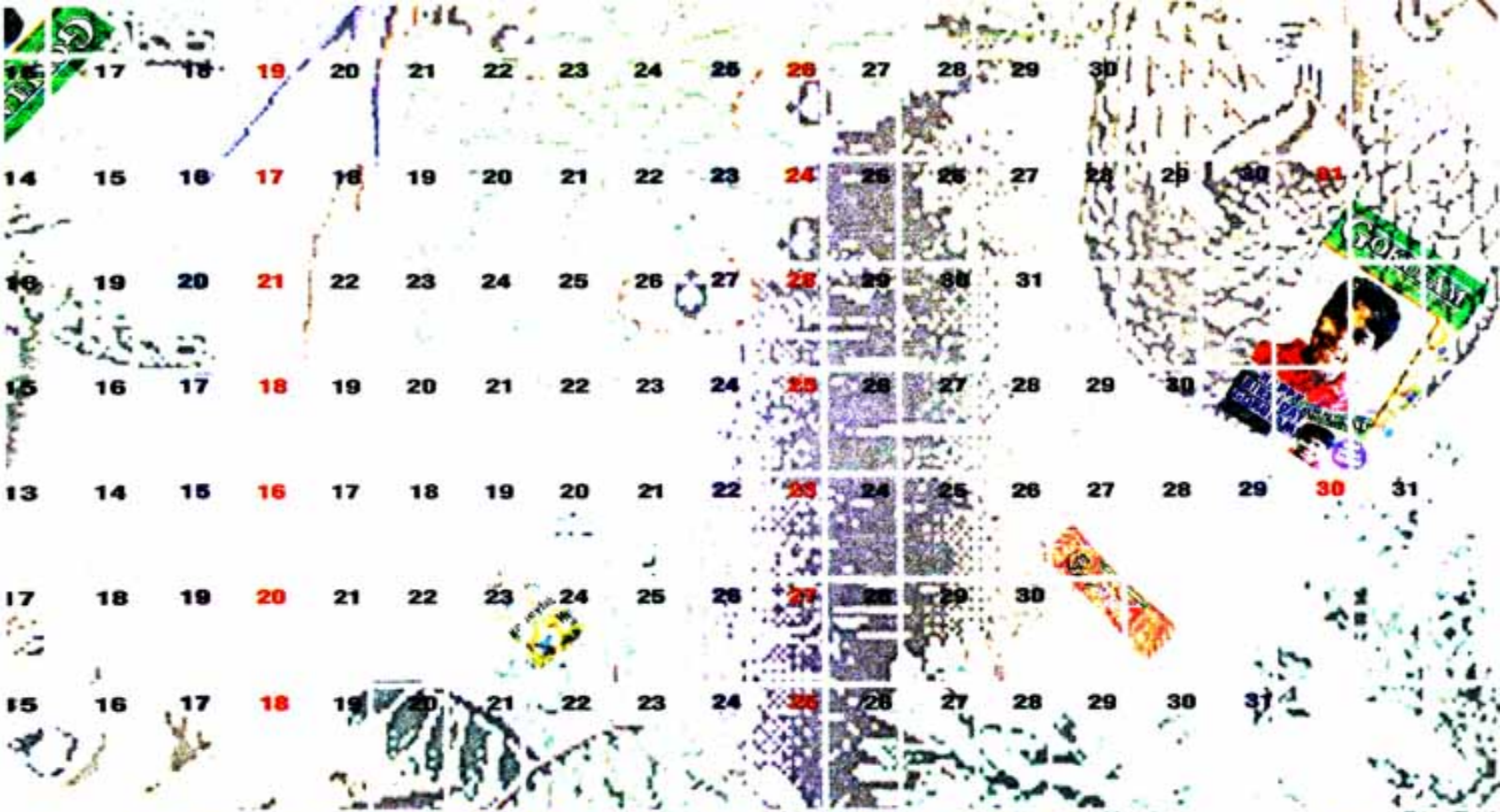
The magazine for children

Wishing Yo

Y

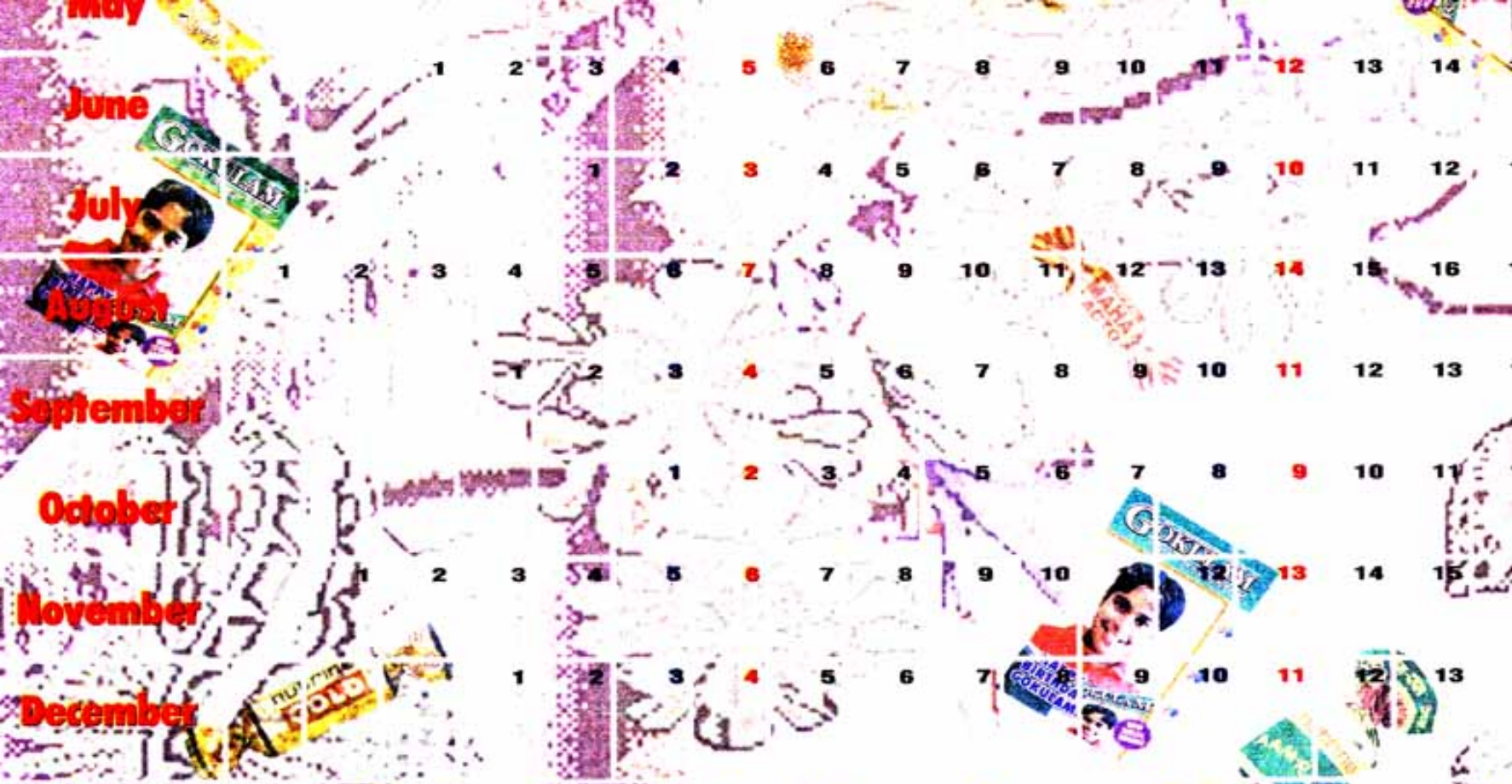


A Very Successful
AR 2005



rine Sweets are hidden in this picture? Keep guessing...

Licensed to post without prepayment under PNG Licence No. WPR 201/98-05 Registered as a Newspaper in Srilanka



How many of your Favourite Magazine and how many N

Registered with the Registrar of Newspaper of India under No. 49668/88 * Registered No. TN

JANUARY 2005					
SUN	30	2	9	16	23
MON	31	3	10	17	24
TUE		4	11	18	25
WED		5	12	19	26
THU		6	13	20	27
FRI		7	14	21	28
SAT	1	8	15	22	29

FEBRUARY 2005					
SUN		6	13	20	27
MON		7	14	21	28
TUE	1	8	15	22	
WED	2	9	16	23	
THU	3	10	17	24	
FRI	4	11	18	25	
SAT	5	12	19	26	

MARCH 2005					
SUN		6	13	20	27
MON		7	14	21	28
TUE	1	8	15	22	29
WED	2	9	16	23	30
THU	3	10	17	24	31
FRI	4	11	18	25	
SAT	5	12	19	26	

APRIL 2005					
SUN		3	10	17	24
MON		4	11	18	25
TUE		5	12	19	26
WED		6	13	20	27
THU		7	14	21	28
FRI	1	8	15	22	29
SAT	2	9	16	23	30

MAY 2005					
SUN	1	8	15	22	29
MON	2	9	16	23	30
TUE	3	10	17	24	31
WED	4	11	18	25	
THU	5	12	19	26	
FRI	6	13	20	27	
SAT	7	14	21	28	

JUNE 2005					
SUN		5	12	19	26
MON		6	13	20	27
TUE		7	14	21	28
WED	1	8	15	22	29
THU	2	9	16	23	30
FRI	3	10	17	24	
SAT	4	11	18	25	

JULY 2005					
SUN	31	3	10	17	24
MON		4	11	18	25
TUE		5	12	19	26
WED		6	13	20	27
THU		7	14	21	28
FRI	1	8	15	22	29
SAT	2	9	16	23	30

AUGUST 2005					
SUN		7	14	21	28
MON	1	8	15	22	29
TUE	2	9	16	23	30
WED	3	10	17	24	31
THU	4	11	18	25	
FRI	5	12	19	26	*
SAT	6	13	20	27	

SEPTEMBER 2005					
SUN		4	11	18	25
MON		5	12	19	26
TUE		6	13	20	27
WED		7	14	21	28
THU	1	8	15	22	29
FRI	2	9	16	23	30
SAT	3	10	17	24	

OCTOBER 2005					
SUN	30	2	9	16	23
MON	31	3	10	17	24
TUE		4	11	18	25
WED		5	12	19	26
THU		6	13	20	27
FRI		7	14	21	28
SAT	1	8	15	22	29

NOVEMBER 2005					
SUN		6	13	20	27
MON		7	14	21	28
TUE	1	8	15	22	29
WED	2	9	16	23	30
THU	3	10	17	24	
FRI	4	11	18	25	
SAT	5	12	19	26	

DECEMBER 2005					
SUN		4	11	18	25
MON		5	12	19	26
TUE		6	13	20	27
WED		7	14	21	28
THU	1	8	15	22	29
FRI	2	9	16	23	30
SAT	3	10	17	24	31

What kind of a writer are you if...

- You won't be churning out masterpieces in Indian English!
- You might be called a writer, but that's only part of the job.
- **The pay and the job outlook are good.**

So, does the writer's profile that we've mentioned above look impressive to you?

Maybe we should rephrase that question: Do you think that profile would look impressive enough if we told you that the compensation for a career in technical writing would probably compare to the size of the last bulleted point?

What is Technical Writing and is it for you?

If your goal is to write a novel, this is NOT the job for you. In THIS job, although the finished product is something you wrote, you'd be involved in a lot of collaboration. You'd interview people and be multi-tasking. Only 20% to 30% of your time would be spent on writing.

DOCUMENTATION

Work as a technical writer involves much more than sitting alone at your computer. The job requires plenty of coordination with technical professionals — from programmers to project managers — to write and design documentation for software.

One way to learn if it's the job for you is to spend several hours reading and reviewing computer manuals and online help systems, such as those for your operating system and assorted applications. Also remember that most technical documentation is used by companies for internal purposes. No one outside the company will ever see it.

The backgrounds:

English, Science or Engineering, Computer Science, and Mass Communication and Journalism would be ideal backgrounds. A technical person will obviously have an easier break.

Unlike other areas of technology, technical writing does not have widely recognized certification. Consider taking courses in the following topics to build a solid foundation:

- Creative writing : To oil those rusty writing skills.
- Web designing : To gain an understanding of design and presentation issues.
- Programming : To help you gain a better understanding of how software is created (even if as a technical writer, there are a host of other areas you could be associated with).

Do You Need to Know Any Specific Applications?

You should know Microsoft Word. Some level of expertise with *Frame Maker* and *RoboHelp*, two applications often used for writing technical documentation would help.

What Do Technical Writers Do?

Technical writers are required to write either in a concise and easy-to-read style for consumer publications or in a highly specialized language for experts.

They develop product instructions, reference and maintenance manuals, articles, project proposals, training materials, technical reports, catalogues, brochures, online documentation and help systems, web pages, multimedia presentations, parts lists, assembly instructions, and sales promotion materials for scientists, engineers, executives, line workers, production managers, etc.

SCRIBES!

Technical Writers often specialize in specific industries such as agriculture, health care, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, computers, and manufacturing.

Is It Possible To Get Certified in Technical Writing?

Yes and no. There are institutions and private enterprises such as • Technowrites, Pune; • The Documentation Research and Training Center (DRTC, Bangalore); • The Indian Institute of Science's Proficiency Continuing Education Program (Bangalore); • TechnoPoint (Bangalore); • S.A.International Limited, Chennai; • The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi; • TASC Consulting Private Limited, Mumbai; trying to cope with the demand for technical writers. However, there is a need for training in technical writing.

As long as new technologies are being developed, there will be a demand for people to explain them in writing. The future is bright for this profession.

Go ahead. Browse the Internet. Network with people you don't know. Set the ball rolling!

NEXT MONTH

Instructional Designing

Feedback to :

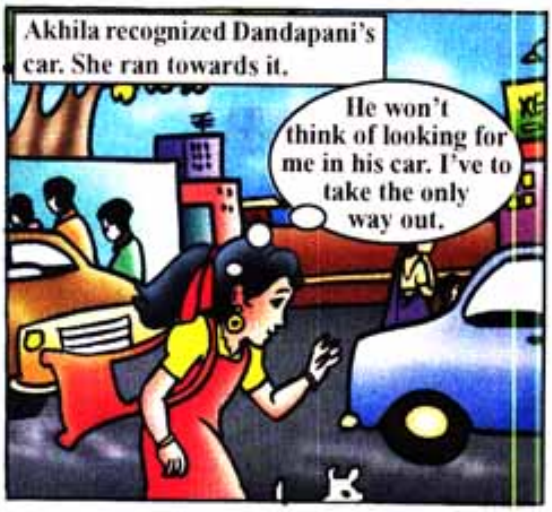
gokulam@careersindia.com

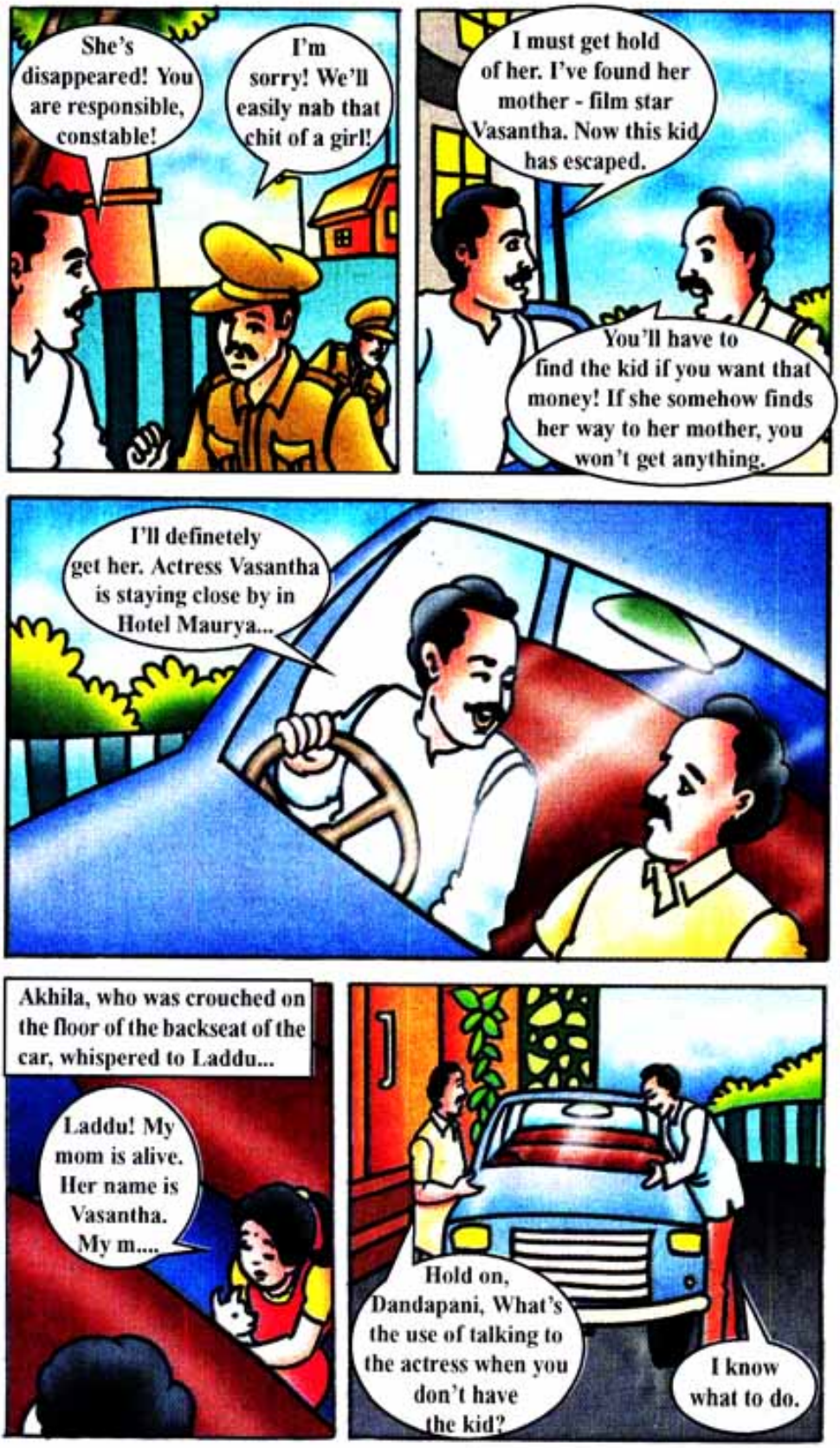
MOM, DEAR MOM!

3

Story : Vandu Mama

Pic : Mahesh




She's disappeared! You are responsible, constable!
I'm sorry! We'll easily nab that chit of a girl!
I must get hold of her. I've found her mother - film star Vasantha. Now this kid has escaped.
You'll have to find the kid if you want that money! If she somehow finds her way to her mother, you won't get anything.
I'll definetely get her. Actress Vasantha is staying close by in Hotel Maurya...
Akhila, who was crouched on the floor of the backseat of the car, whispered to Laddu...
Laddu! My mom is alive. Her name is Vasantha. My m....
Hold on, Dandapani, What's the use of talking to the actress when you don't have the kid?
I know what to do.

I'm confident that the police will find her in an hour's time. I'll inform Vasantha about her long lost daughter before she leaves this place.
Surely, you won't decline a huge reward!
I've spent so much money tracing her mom out. Surely, I expect a huge sum in return.
Crook Dandapani calls from the hotel reception desk.
I'd like to speak to Ms. Vasantha urgently. Tell her, I've found the girl. I'll bring her today...
Madam, it's that 'secret' man again. He's found your daughter, it seems. Your long lost daughter...
Oh, God! Malini! This is too much. That man wants to shatter my heart ...
Don't worry, ma'am! By the time he calls again we'd have left this hotel.

Akhila was out of Dandapani's car. She had overheard his plans.
Laddu, my dearest laddu, I never dreamed I'd see my mother ever again. Now I'm really...
With a hammering heart, Akhila asked the hotel receptionist...
Sir! Please could I meet actress Vasantha...
The hotel manager who heard Akhila's request turned around...
What....? You?
Go, go... get out. We don't allow poor waifs in here...
Sir, but I...
Suddenly -
Hey! Isn't that actress Vasantha's pet dog? Don't let that stray dog near it.
To be continued

REMOTE CONTROL

Operating televisions with 'colours' you cannot see!

Raja was lolling on the sofa and idly switching channels on TV. Raja's mother came in and was furious. "I am going to throw this remote control into the well. Get up and study something, Lazybones!" she said.

Viz seemed to enjoy this. Though he was a small spec of silicon dust that one could hardly see, he was cheeky and could communicate his emotions to Raja quite well. "Now what are you chuckling about? Do you like to see me scolded?" asked Raja, who was quite irritated.

"Uh, no! I was surprised your mother got the name of the very first remote right," said Viz.

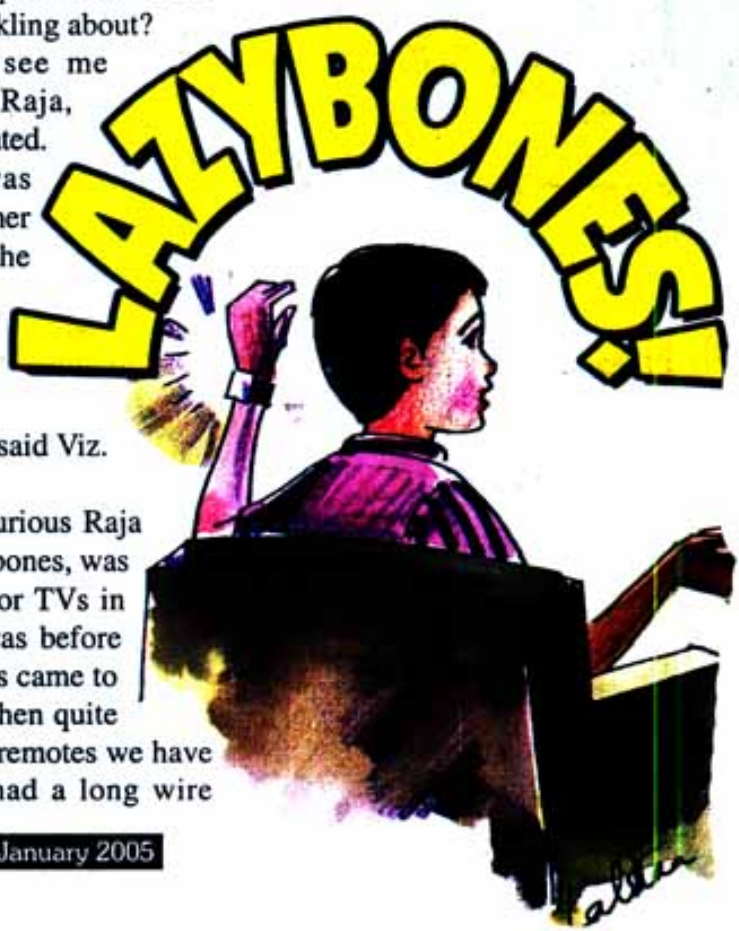
"And what was that?" asked Raja.

"Lazy Bones!" said Viz.

Viz told the curious Raja much more. Lazy bones, was a remote control for TVs in the 1950s. That was before the time televisions came to India! But it was then quite different from the remotes we have today. This one had a long wire connecting it to the TV set. It worked like an electrical switch for a motor kept in the TV set. But the problem was people tripped on the wire and fell down!

" How come our remote works without wires?" asked Raja. Viz explained, "Experiments continued with remote controls. There have been remote controls using ultrasound and transistors before the type we use now. We use Infra-red remotes"

Raja was ready with the next question. "What is Infra *Red*? Our remote is black. I have seen only

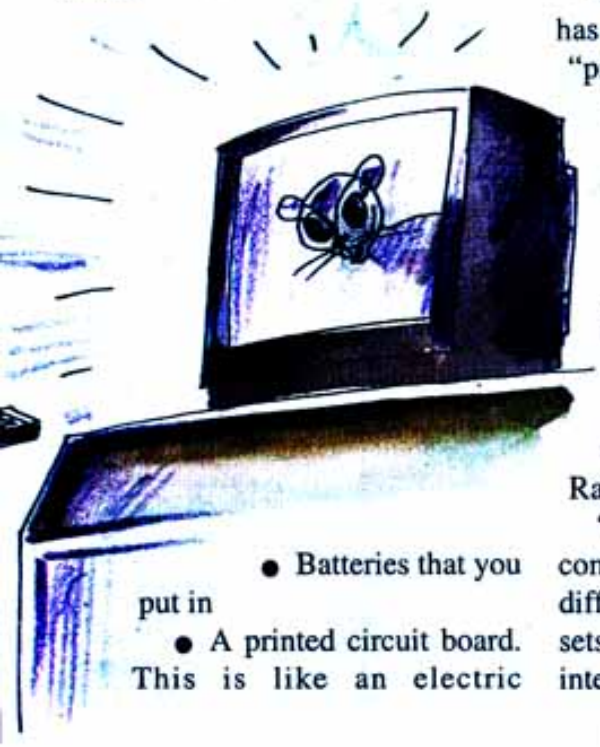


black remotes."

" Raja, though we see light in straight lines, each type or colour of light is said to vibrate with a certain frequency in 'waves' of particular lengths. The human eye can only see light or colours upto a certain 'wave'length. Red is the longest wavelength we can see. Light rays with longer wavelength than red are not visible to our eye and they are called infra red rays," explained Viz.

"So what makes this light come out from the remote?"

" Let's open your remote control, when your mother has gone out," said Viz mischievously. " If you do that, then you can see a few main parts:



- Batteries that you put in
- A printed circuit board. This is like an electric connection, only that the connections are much thinner than wires and have to be "printed" on a fibreglass plate.
- A light emitting diode.
- There are resistors and capacitors (but don't worry about these functions for now)"

"I think I can guess what happens. When I press a particular button on the remote, it presses on one part of the "circuit" and the "current" or signal flows in such a way that it makes the diode give out infra red rays in a particûlar pattern."

"Great detection!" said Viz.

"But how does the TV understand all this?"

"In very simple terms, the TV set has a receiving panel that also has a "printed circuit" or chip, that is activated by the signal coming from the infra red rays. This triggers the channel to operate," said Viz

"Here is a googly," continued Viz. " How come the VCR or CD Player is not started off by the TV remote?"

"Maybe because it is made by a different company?" said Raja.

"Jokes apart, infra red waves come in a range of wavelengths and different equipment have different sets of codes that stops them from interfering with each other."

MUMBAIKAR

My cheeks were wet and I
began to cry
For I'd just seen my uncle die.
Tears kept falling, drop by drop,
I tried to, but I couldn't stop.

As I sat on the garden bench
A stranger walked up to me
He gave me a smile and a chocolate
He told me to cry, but not to worry.

I tried it and it helped
I was thankful to the stranger
I asked him his name
And he simply replied 'Mumbaikar.'

Later, I saw a lady fallen on the road
I helped her up, smiled and led
her home.
She kindly asked me my name
And I proudly replied 'Mumbaikar.'

- Vaishali Balasundaram,
Std.XII, R.D. National College,
Mumbai

MUMBAIKARS' VERSES!

LIFE IN MUMBAI

Life in Mumbai is a mess,
Running, panting and catching a bus.
Everything happens in a
second's time,
Accidents, births, deaths and crime.
Buses and trucks spew out smoke,
As people in small homes choke.
Breathing fresh air here, is a dream,
Small children in the slums scream
Businessmen speak on
mobile phones,
Even as the poor sit and moan.
Narrow roads, open drains,
There's no end to the
Mumbaikar's pains.
Yet, despite the disgust and pity,
I love my dear Mumbai city!

- K.Satish, Std.VIII, S.I.A.H.
School, Mumbai

MUMBAI SPECIAL

MY MUMBAI

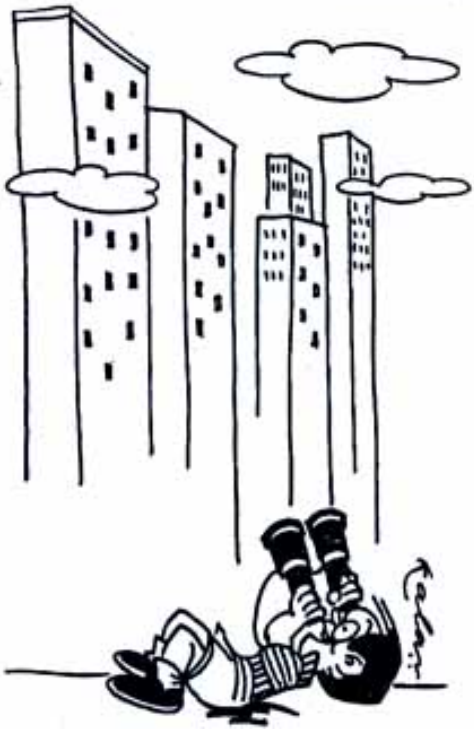
The lights at night sparkle and glow
Cars and buses flow in a row
The people here are soft -
spoken and nice
They all work hard and are wise.
No linguistic differences
No regional preferences
Everyone is equal
All festivals are special.
The buildings seem to reach the sky,
That's why I love my Mumbai!

- Subha Narayanan,
Std. XI, Vani Vidyalaya,
Dombivili (E)

MIRACULOUS MUMBAI!

I went on a city-tour of Mumbai
And gazed at the buildings
touching the sky!
I looked at the Arabian sea,
Sipping a can of Pepsi.
I stood at the India Gate,
Along with my classmate.
We went there on the eve of
Ganesh Chaturthi,
Which is celebrated with great
festivity.
I stared at the houses near
Juhu beach,
Which surely were beyond our reach
With all possible facilities,
The homes of several celebrities!
Miraculous Mumbai!
Miraculous Mumbai!

- V. Girish, Std.IX, Kendriya
Vidyalaya, Chennai



SPIRITUAL CAVES!

The Elephanta Caves, a World Heritage site is a tourist attraction in the vicinity of Mumbai. The Elephanta Island is located 10 km away from the Gateway of India, at Mumbai. These caves house rock-cut temples dating back to 600 AD.

The Elephanta Island was so named by the Portugese, after the statue of an elephant near the landing area of the island. These rockcut temples dedicated to Shiva Mahadeva are rich in sculptural content. Motorboats take passengers from Apollo Bunder near the Gateway of India.

This temple was created by carving out rocks and creating the columns, the internal spaces and the images. The entire temple is akin to a huge sculpture, through whose corridors and chambers one can walk. The entire complex was created by a process of rock removal. Some of the rock surfaces are polished while some are untreated bare rock.

The entire cave temple complex covers an area of about 60,000 square feet and it consists of a main chamber and two lateral ones, countryards and several subsidiary shrines. Above the temple is a mass of natural rock.

There are three entrances to this temple. The ones on the East and the West mark the axis of the temple and a twenty pillared hall lines the axis.

The Sadasiva manifestation of Shiva is carved in relief at the end of the north-south axis. This colossal 20 feet high image of the three headed Shiva, Thrimurthy, is a magnificent one, considered to be a masterpiece of

Indian art. This colossal image represents Panchamukha Shiva, only three faces of whom are carved into the wall attracting attention immediately upon entering the temple through the northern entrace.

Also on the southern wall are grand sculptures, images of Kalyanasundara, Gangadhara, Ardhanariswara and Uma Maheswari. To the west of the northern entrance are sculpured images of Nataraja and Andhakaasuravadamoorthy, and to its east are images of Yogiswara and Ravanaanugrahamurthy.

Thus in the Elephanta Caves, Shiva is portrayed in the non anthropomorphic Shivalingam form, as well as a quintessential being emanating from the Shivalingam in the colossal image, and in eight manifest forms.

To the east of the main temple is a courtyard, flanked by the secondary shrine. This temple has six pillars at its entrance, four of which are free standing and two engaged. The entrance leads to a hall decorated with sculptured panels depicting legends from the Shiva Purana.

It is no wonder that the caves resonate with the spiritual energy of India and they attract more visitors each year than the entire city of Mumbai.

- Kaushalya Narendran, Std.VII, Vasant Vihar High School, Mumbai

THE INVALUABLE

Once upon a time, in Varanasi, there lived a poor water carrier. He toiled hard, but earned only enough to eat two meals a day. One day he earned a paisa more than normal and decided to put it away. To him that one paisa was a treasure.

"Where shall I hide it?" He thought to himself.

He started tapping the bricks on the compound wall near the palace gate and found a loose one. He pulled it out and placed his treasure there. Then he carefully counted the number of bricks to his 'secret' brick.

'It's the tenth brick to the right of the northern gate and the first one from the ground, he said to himself and kept repeating it to memorise it. He then replaced the brick over his treasure. Everytime he passed that way he checked his treasure.

Several years later, he married a girl who was also a water carrier. One day his wife said, "I'd like to attend the fair in the city, but we don't have enough money."

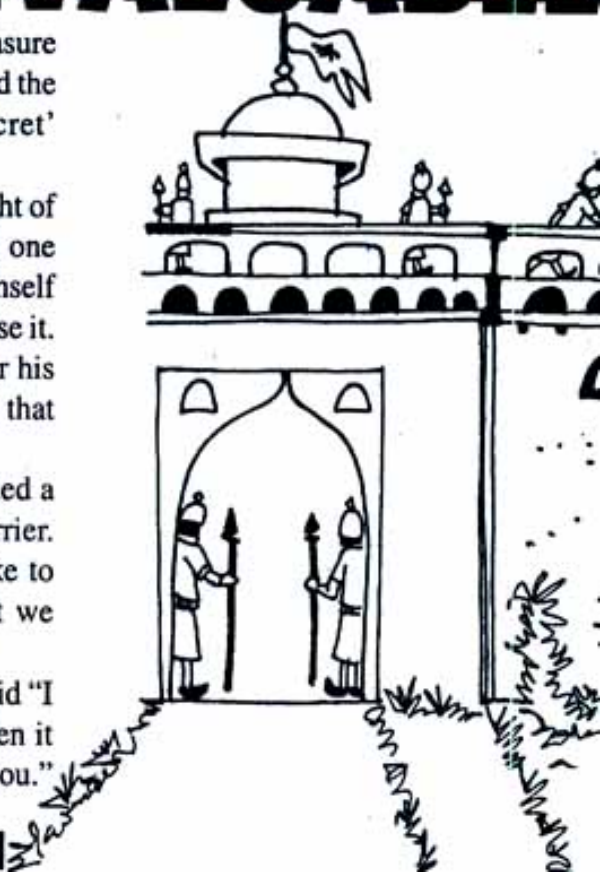
The water carrier proudly said "I have saved one paisa and hidden it in a safe place. I'll fetch it for you."

His wife also had saved one paisa. She was thrilled about the 'secret' treasure. The poor man happily set off to bring it.

The summer midday sun was scorching. Nobody wanted to venture out. The poor man was running down the streets with a song on his lips.

King Udaya was relaxing in the palace balcony. He saw the water carrier running at this time of the day, looking very pleased with himself.

He sent his men to produce the



water carrier before him.

The king asked the water carrier, "today the earth is blistering, yet you manage to run. Don't your feet burn?"

He replied, "It is my desire that burns me, not the heat." Upon hearing this, the king asked him what his desire was. He replied, "my desire is to retrieve my hidden treasure located near the northern gate and to make my wife happy."

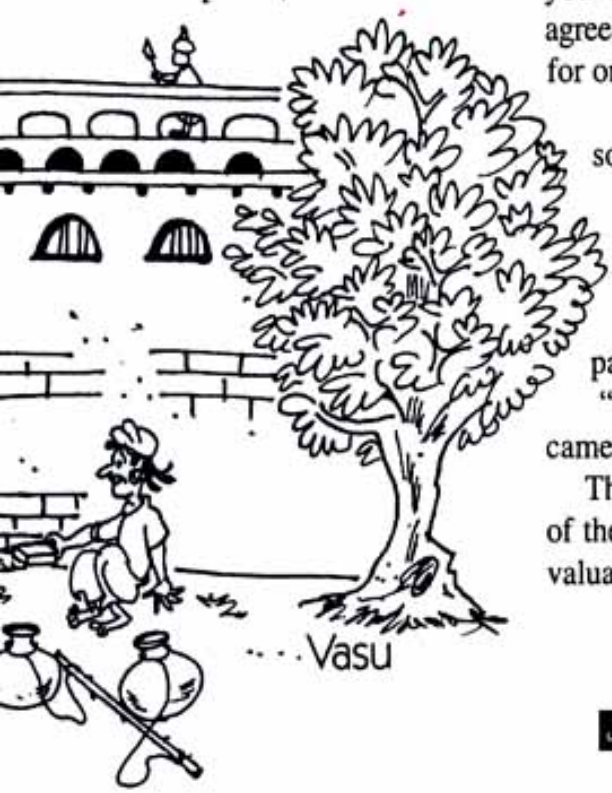
When the king heard this he asked him whether his treasure consisted of a thousand gold coins.

TREASURE

"No", said the water carrier.

"Then how much is it?"

"It's one paisa", answered the water carrier. Everyone was surprised by the answer.



The king said, "I will give you one paisa, you don't have to run to the northern gate."

But the water carrier did not agree. He replied "I will take what you give me, but I will get mine too."

The king pitied the man who had to run to the northern gate for one paisa. So he raised his offer. He said, "hundred paise... a thousand!"

The water carrier's treasure was his lifetime achievement. He had a special regard for it. So he repeated his answer.

Desperately, the king raised his offer again and again. But the water carrier insisted that he would go and fetch his treasure.

Finally the king said, "I will give you one half of my palace if you agree to drop the idea of running now for one paisa."

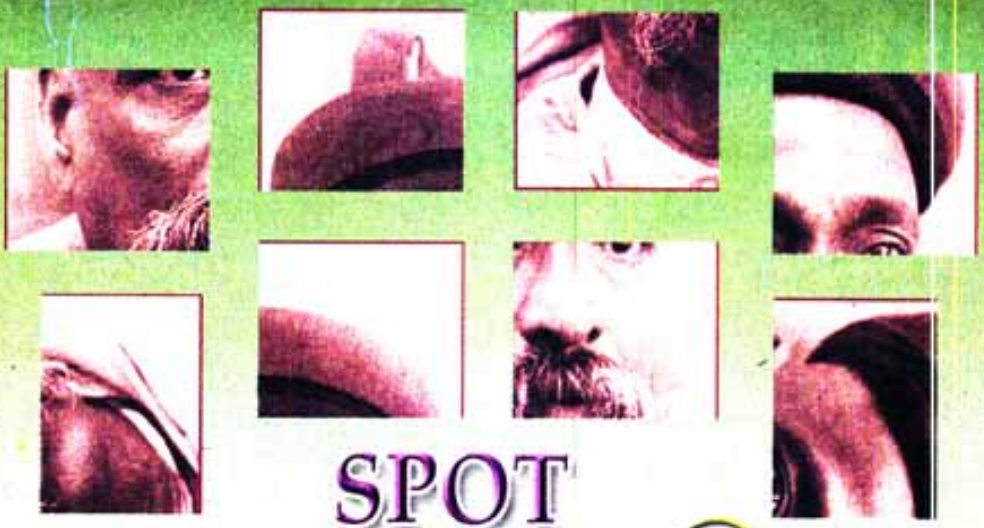
The water carrier thought for some time and then agreed.

The king held a darbar to announce his decision. He then asked, "Which half of the palace do you choose?"

"I'll have the northern half" came the reply.

Thus, the water carrier got half of the palace and also his own 'invaluable treasure'.

- Karthik Bhushan, Age 13, Alike, Karnataka.



SPOT IT RIGHT 13

Rules and Regulations

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed picture and answer accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 14.01.2005

Assemble the eight scrambled jigsaw pieces to complete the picture and write the answer.

Hint : "Swaraj is my birthright...", he said.

ANSWER : _____

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

Space for completed picture

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

MUMBAI MASALA

MUMBAI SPECIAL

In 'Khao Galli' (literally - eating lane) in Mumbai's suburbs one can find food stalls aplenty. Try out these Mumbai favourites!

BHELPURI

You Need :

Kurmura (puffed rice) - 3 cups, Tomatoes - 3, Onions - 2, Boiled Potatoes - 2, Raw mango (optional) - 1, Juice of 1 lemon, Fine sev, crisp pooris, mixture (chivda).

For Green Chutney :

Small bunch each of fresh coriander and Pudina leaves, ginger - a small piece, salt - a pinch or two. 2 green chillies.

For sweet chutney : Dates 50 gms, tamarind paste, jaggery. Chilli powder - 1 tsp, salt to taste.

Method : Grind all ingredients for green chutney to a paste. For sweet chutney, deseed the dates. Add tamarind paste and grind the dates. Boil the paste. Add chilli powder, salt and jaggery. Boil till it thickens. In a big vessel, mix well kurumura, chivda, finely chopped vegetables, both the chutneys and lemon juice. Transfer to serving plates. Garnish with sev, pooris and coriander leaves.

PAO BHAJI

Ingredients :

Buns (Pao) - as required, Boiled and peeled potatoes - 6, Tomatoes - 2, Onion - 1, Cauliflower florets - (100 gms), Capsicum - 1, Green peas - 100 gram, Paobhaji Masala - 1 tsp, Salt - to taste, Chilli powder - 1 tbsp, Lemon juice, coriander leaves, onions, butter. Jeera - 1 tsp, 5 garlic cloves, oil - to prepare the gravy.

Method : Heat oil. Add jeera. Then add chopped onions and garlic. When they turn golden brown, add green peas, capsicum, cauliflower and tomato. Add a little water, chilli powder, masala and salt to taste. Cook and mash well. Add potatoes and mash again. Roast pao (buns) on a tava using butter. Pour the gravy on to a serving plate, squeeze lemon, garnish with a blob of butter, coriander leaves and onions. Serve with hot buttered pao.

- Shruti Ramachandran, Std.IX, Holy Family High School, Mumbai

ART GALLERY

Murugesu Durshika, Std.VII, Alexor International College, Srilanka.

Shefali A. Rao, Std.V, Sardar Dastur High School, Pune.

P. Swetha Mahalakshmi, Std.VIII, Monfort Matric School, Tindivanam.

Navya, Std.IX, St. Ann's High School, Mangalore.

Kokila Jaishankar, Std.IX, K.V., Ashok Nagar, Chennai.

Pragnya P. Kini, Std.IX, Milagres English Medium HS, Kallianpur, Udupi, Karnataka.

NEW YEAR STUFF!

WALL HANGING GOKULAM CALENDAR

Materials Required :

Fig.1

Ice Cream Sticks - 40 (approx.)
Craft glue or fevicol
Gokulam Poster
Satin ribbon or thread

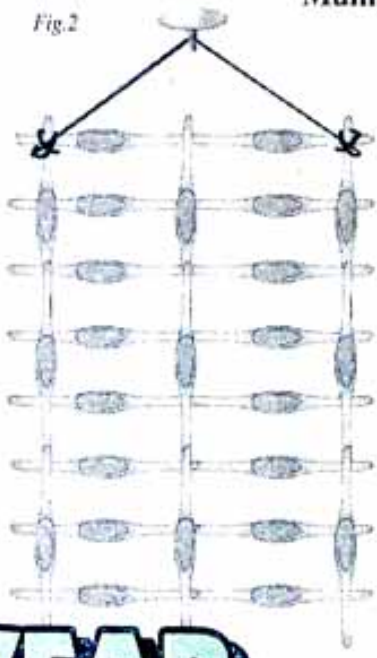
Procedure :

Take 2 ice sticks and join them as shown in Fig.1. Assemble them into a grid like structure as shown in Fig.2 measuring 35 cm x 26 cm. Take the satin ribbon and tie it to the top of the grid as shown in Fig.2. Paste the Gokulam New Year Calendar onto the wooden grid and hang it in your room.

The basic grid above can be used for making other wall hangings too.

- Adapted from design given by : R. Sandhya, Std.XII, KVIIT, Mumbai

Fig.2



STUFFED TOY

Things required:

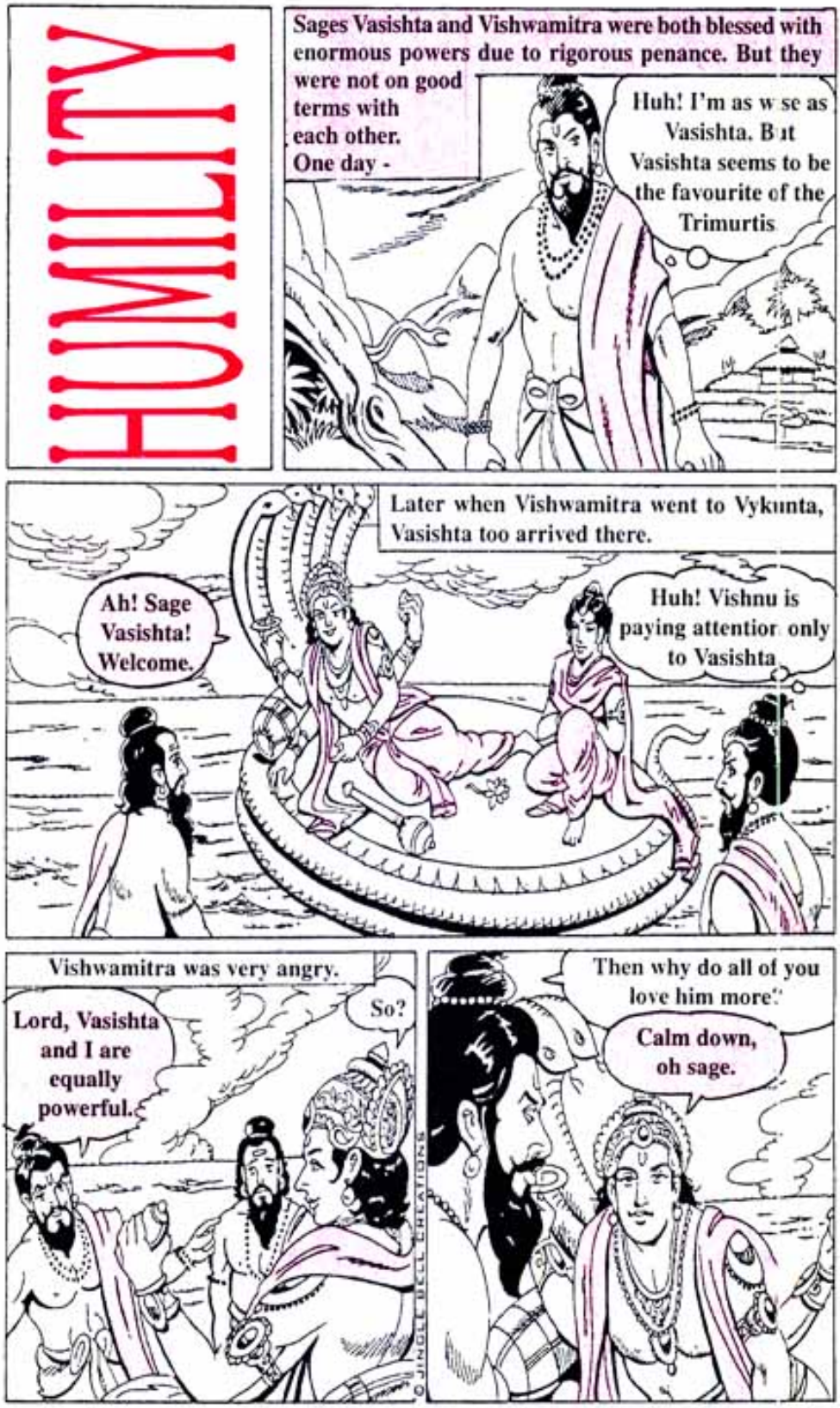
Good, soft cloth of any colour - 50 x 40 cm
Paper
Threads (matching the cloth).
Cotton or waste cloth strips
Doll eyes and other decorative items.

Method:

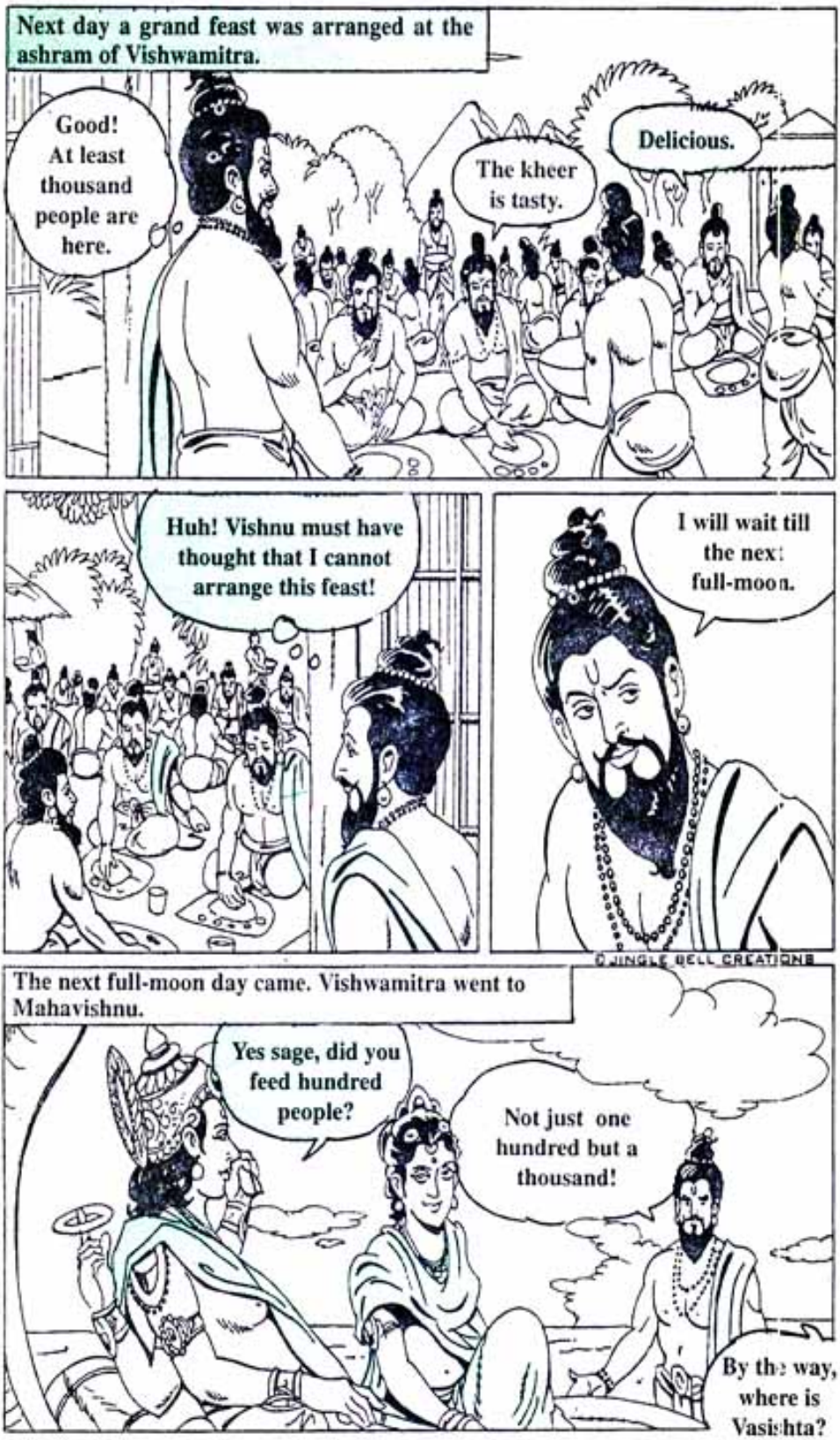
1) On the paper, draw an outline of the character you wish to make into a toy. Avoid small parts like ears, etc. b) Fold the cloth into half, keep this paper on it, and cut cloth to shape. c) Stitch the two pieces of cloth on three sides and turn it inside out. d) Stuff it with cotton or waste cloth properly and stitch the fourth side completely. e) Stitch on the eyes and other decorative items and your stuffed toy is ready.

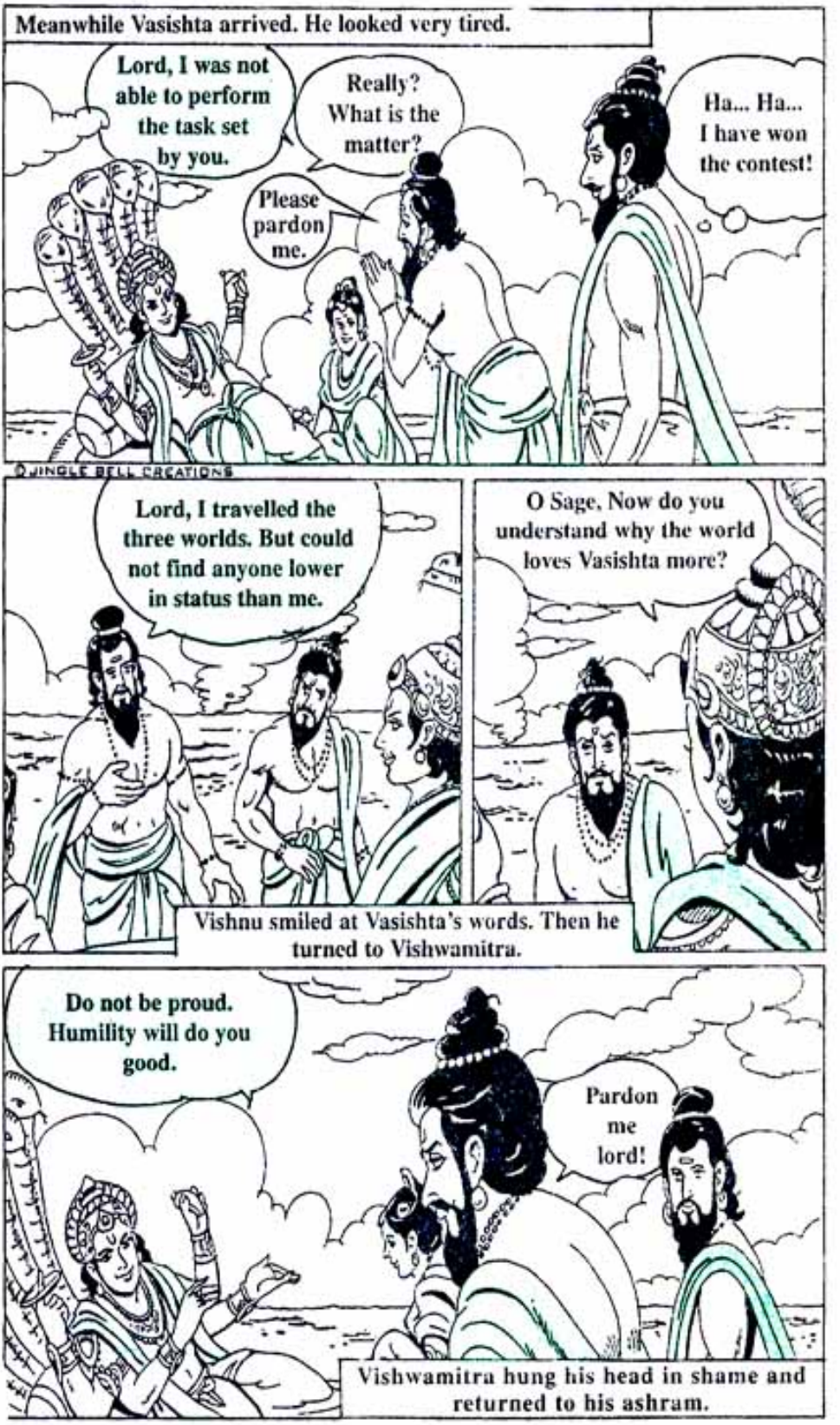
- Harish B. Nair, Std. XII, CHM Junior college, Ambarnath, Maharashtra

HUMILITY


Sages Vasishta and Vishwamitra were both blessed with enormous powers due to rigorous penance. But they were not on good terms with each other. One day -
Huh! I'm as wise as Vasishta. But Vasishta seems to be the favourite of the Trimurtis
Later when Vishwamitra went to Vykunta, Vasishta too arrived there.
Ah! Sage Vasishta! Welcome.
Huh! Vishnu is paying attention only to Vasishta
Vishwamitra was very angry.
Lord, Vasishta and I are equally powerful.
So?
Then why do all of you love him more?
Calm down, oh sage.
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS

I shall clear your doubt.
Vishnu called Vasishta and Vishwamitra another day.
Today is full-moon day. Before the next full-moon both of you...
... should offer food to a hundred people.
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
But on one condition. All the hundred people should be lesser mortals than you.
Alright Lord!
You may leave. I will expect you next full-moon day.
Vasishta and Vishwamitra took leave.
The very same day Vishwamitra reached his ashram and called his disciples.
Tomorrow we must organize a grand feast. Atleast a thousand persons must be invited.
Yes, Guruji.


Next day a grand feast was arranged at the ashram of Vishwamitra.
Good! At least thousand people are here.
The kheer is tasty.
Delicious.
Huh! Vishnu must have thought that I cannot arrange this feast!
I will wait till the next full-moon.
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
The next full-moon day came. Vishwamitra went to Mahavishnu.
Yes sage, did you feed hundred people?
Not just one hundred but a thousand!
By the way, where is Vasishta?



Meanwhile Vasishta arrived. He looked very tired.

Lord, I was not able to perform the task set by you.

Really? What is the matter?

Please pardon me.

Ha... Ha... I have won the contest!

©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS

Lord, I travelled the three worlds. But could not find anyone lower in status than me.

O Sage, Now do you understand why the world loves Vasishta more?

Vishnu smiled at Vasishta's words. Then he turned to Vishwamitra.

Do not be proud. Humility will do you good.

Pardon me lord!

Vishwamitra hung his head in shame and returned to his ashram.

SING AAHIRI, STAY HUNGRY!

Chennai reverberates to the sounds of music and dance during December - January every year when thousands of concerts are held at over 500 venues.

Readers might be aware that different 'raagas' have certain attributes. Some raagas bring rain. Tansen is said to have lit lamps with his music. Here is a story retold by my grandpa about the Carnatic raaga Aahiri.

A singer was taught the raaga Aahiri but was also warned by his guru that if he sang this raaga he might not get food that day. The singer wanted to check this out for himself.

His wife, however, did not wish to risk it. She felt, if he sang the raaga at home, the whole family would be deprived of their food for the day. So she requested him to sing elsewhere

The musician carried his lunch, packed in an earthern vessel and went to a bamboo grove early in the morning. Having tied his lunch pack onto a bamboo shoot, he began singing Aahiri. In the afternoon when he was hungry, he looked for his lunch pack. It was hanging on the same bamboo shoot - but beyond his reach! As the sun rose into the sky, the bamboo had straightened and carried the lunch pack along with it.

The vocalist wandered in search of food and stumbled into a marriage hall where the feast had just been laid out. He walked in and sat down to eat a delicious meal. "A pat on the back of Aahiri!" he said.

At once, the groom started beating the bewildered singer. It so happened that the bride's name was Aahiri and the groom was annoyed with the singer for "patting the back" of his wife.

The poor chap explained his predicament. Everyone had a hearty laugh and entreated him to a feast. That's Raaga Aahiri for you. If you have any stories related to raagas do share them with us.

- V. Mahadevan, Std.VII,
P.S. Senior Sec. School, Chennai

* King Charles II

Bombay was gifted as dowry to the English King Charles II when he wed Portugese Infanta Catherina in 1661.

- Manjushree Venkatesh, Std.VIII, Mumbai

Mumbai gets its name from Goddess Mumba Devi, Patron goddess of the 'kolis'. Mumba in Marathi means mother. Bombay is said to have got its name from the Portugese phrase 'bom bahia' meaning 'good bay'. Bombay officially became Mumbai by an act of Parliament in 1997.

Victoria Terminus (V.T.) was accorded World Heritage status at the UNESCO meet in Saso, China. V.T. serves 30 lakh commuters a day!

- Chinmay N. Gajendragadkar, Std.VIII, Dombivili

* Mumba Devi Temple

Jamshedji Tata's motor car was India's first one to hit the roads of Mumbai in 1901. His grandson, J.R.D. Tata flew India's first plane between Karachi and Mumbai in 1918. Mumbai's 'BEST' buses were designed after their English counterparts and resemble them even today.

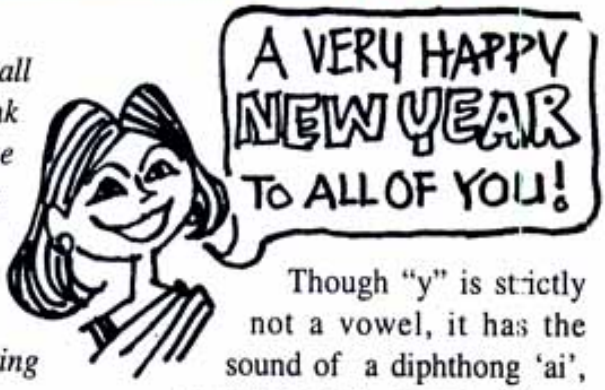
- Vidya S. Sarma, Age 17, Mumbai

* Flight from Karachi to Mumbai

The tradition of a 'Rest Day' on Sunday during cricket matches was broken for the first time after 56 years, when India played England at the Mumbai Gymkhana in December 1933!

- R. Arvindh, Chennai

* Mumbai Gymkhana



Dear Readers,

A very happy new year to all of you.And what do you think is my wish for you?You have guessed right. Lots and lots of books to read and enjoy. Not your text books, but stories, poems, plays etc.Even if exams are looming ahead.

Are there any words which have or don't have all the vowels in the English Language?

- Anand Kumar, Std.VII, Ferozepur.

There are many words which contain all the vowels a, e, i, o and u. I can recall two words straight-away—behaviour and revolutionary. If the suffix "in" and "un" are added to words, the list of words can even fill this page of Gokulam.

As for words that do not contain any vowels, we have words like "sky, shy, by, my, fly hymn and rhythm".

Though "y" is strictly not a vowel, it has the sound of a diphthong 'ai', or two vowel sounds joined together. It also has the sound of "i" as in hymn.

What is meant by Spoonerism?

-Ankita Bhat, Std.VII, Mumbai

A spoonerism is a mistake made by the speaker in which the sounds of words are changed. This sometimes gives rise to humorous results.

Rev.Archibald Spooner (1844-1930) was said to make these mistakes either accidentally or deliberately! So the mistakes made in sounds came to be called spoonerisms. As sometimes people used to make them up deliberately, a favourite pastime was to speak in spoonerisms. Here are some spoonerisms attributed to Rev. Spooner :

1. "Sir you have tasted

two whole worms" instead of

"Sir you have wasted two whole terms."

2. "Let us drink to the queer old dean" instead of

"Let us drink to the dear old queen."

3. "You have hissed all my mystery lectures" instead of

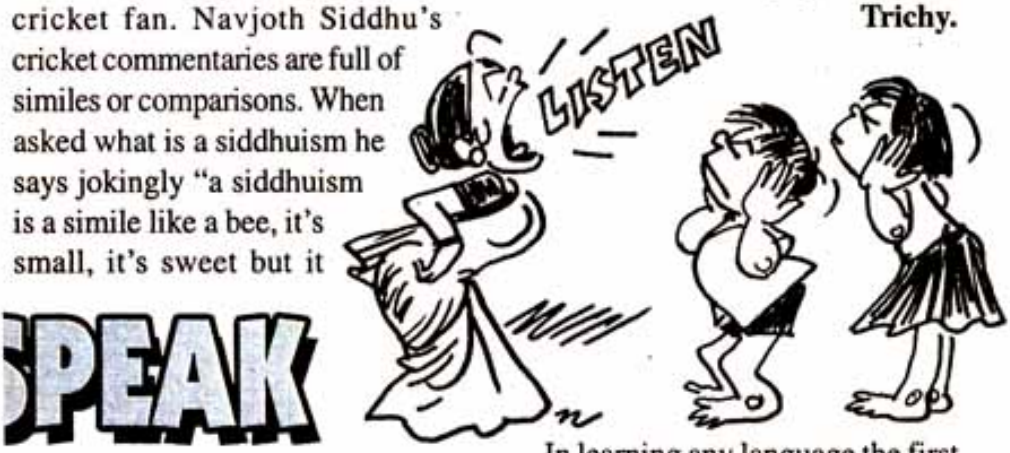
"You have missed all my history lectures."

You must have heard of "siddhuisms" especially if you are a cricket fan. Navjoth Siddhu's cricket commentaries are full of similes or comparisons. When asked what is a siddhuism he says jokingly "a siddhuism is a simile like a bee, it's small, it's sweet but it has a sting". Another siddhuism is "like a laxative, easy to take but difficult to predict the result". Foreign commentators were at first taken aback by this new use of similes, but Siddhu stuck to them. Now everyone waits for what new siddhuism, Siddhu will come up with.

What do these lines mean?
Great people discuss ideas!
Average people discuss events;
Small people discuss people!
- Kamal Shankar Swami, Pune

An idea is an activity of the mind that may suggest a plan of action which has a standard of perfection. Therefore, great people discuss ideas. Average people discuss events taking place in the country and abroad but do not discuss ideas which may arise from these events. Small people discuss people usually criticizing them. They indulge in idle gossip.

How can I excel in conversation?
Thomas Murphy, Std.VIII, Trichy.



In learning any language the first lesson is to listen, then speak, then read and then write. Unfortunately in our schools, writing and reading are given priority and speaking is ignored. A baby under a year old, listens to his mummy and daddy all the time. Then suddenly a year later he starts to talk. So if you want to excel in conversation, listen first to people who are conversing, watch TV, plays, etc., then start talking. Even if you make mistakes in the beginning, it doesn't matter.

CITY OF DREAMS

Aamchi Mumbai, as the natives better know it, is definitely a city of dreams. Come witness the beauty and elegance of this great city which is rightly called 'Newyork of India'. Fasten your seat belts. All set for Mumbai Darshan?

This island city lies off the west coast of India just south of the Tropic of Cancer. Mumbai's most famous landmark, the Gateway of India is a triumphal archway located at Apollo Bunder. Built to commemorate the arrival of King George V and Queen Mary, this beautiful gateway was designed by George Wicket.

Take a ferry from Gateway of India to the mystifying rock-cut temples, Elephanta caves. Visit Victoria Terminus, Mumbai's premier rail terminus, (designed by FW Stevens). After sunset take a stroll across the 'Queen's Necklace'. I'm talking about the 'Marine Drive'. This road glitters with lights and resembles a glowing pearl string.

Then get ready to take a glimpse of the universe. Visit the Nehru Planetarium, the only place which recreates the image of the sky in the exclusively built sky theatre. Specially designed for children, the Science centre has a science museum with a sound and light gallery as well as exhibits which are interactive in nature. One can actually participate and get educated at the same time.

Mumbai has great 'eat outs' and cafes - Mc Donalds, Baskin Robins, Coffee Day, Barista... to name a few. For entertainment there are theme parks like Essel World, Water Kingdom, Fantasy Land. Sun and Sand beckons

MUMBAI SPECIAL

you to the beautiful beach at Chowpatti. Don't miss the mouthwatering bhelpuris here. Don't miss the Juhu beach either where you'll find acrobats, animal rides, monkey tricks and even cricket on the beach. Some famous Bollywood stars reside in this locality.

The Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Borivili is also a must for children. Enjoy the toy train ride through the lush green forest. Close by, are the Carla Caves of buddhist origin.

Hanging gardens located on the western side of the city is famous for its view points. Musical Fountain and Old Woman's Shoe are added attractions.

The city never sleeps. It has an exotic night life. The ups and downs in the economy of our country all start here at the Dalal street which is a counterpart of the Wall street.

To focus a bit on the places of worship in this city. Seek the blessings of the goddess of wealth and prosperity at the Mahalakshmi temple. Magnificent churches built in the British era include the Mount Mary church, St. Thomas cathedral, the Don Bosco church. Also visit Haji Ali mosque which has a dramatic offshore location opposite the Mahalakshmi Race Course. It can be visited only at low tide.

Visiting Mumbai isn't worth a nickel, unless you shop at the exotic malls here. Crossroads, R-malls just

to name a few. But if you are looking for some really funky stuff that would be light on your pockets, 'Fashion Street' would be the best alternative. Shop, till you drop! You might even pick up genuine antiques at Chor Bazaar.

Our trip would be incomplete without a movie. So have a first hand mind boggling experience at the Imax Dome theatre where you can enjoy lifelike action and adventure.

Well... thats the end of our dream ride. Return home with unforgettable memories of this dream city.

- Disha Rayen,
Std.XI, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

THE FIVE FOOLS

"Birbal, there are no fools in our country. I haven't seen any," remarked Akbar, once, proudly.

"That is not true. It is just that when you have met one you've never realised that the person is a fool," replied Birbal.

Akbar was offended. "You are always contradicting me. I'll give you a week's time off. If you can show me five fools, I'll reward you, or else you should leave the country!" Birbal took up the challenge.

However, even after five days he could not find a single fool. On the sixth day, as he walked down his street he spotted a man riding his horse with a bundle of hay on his head.

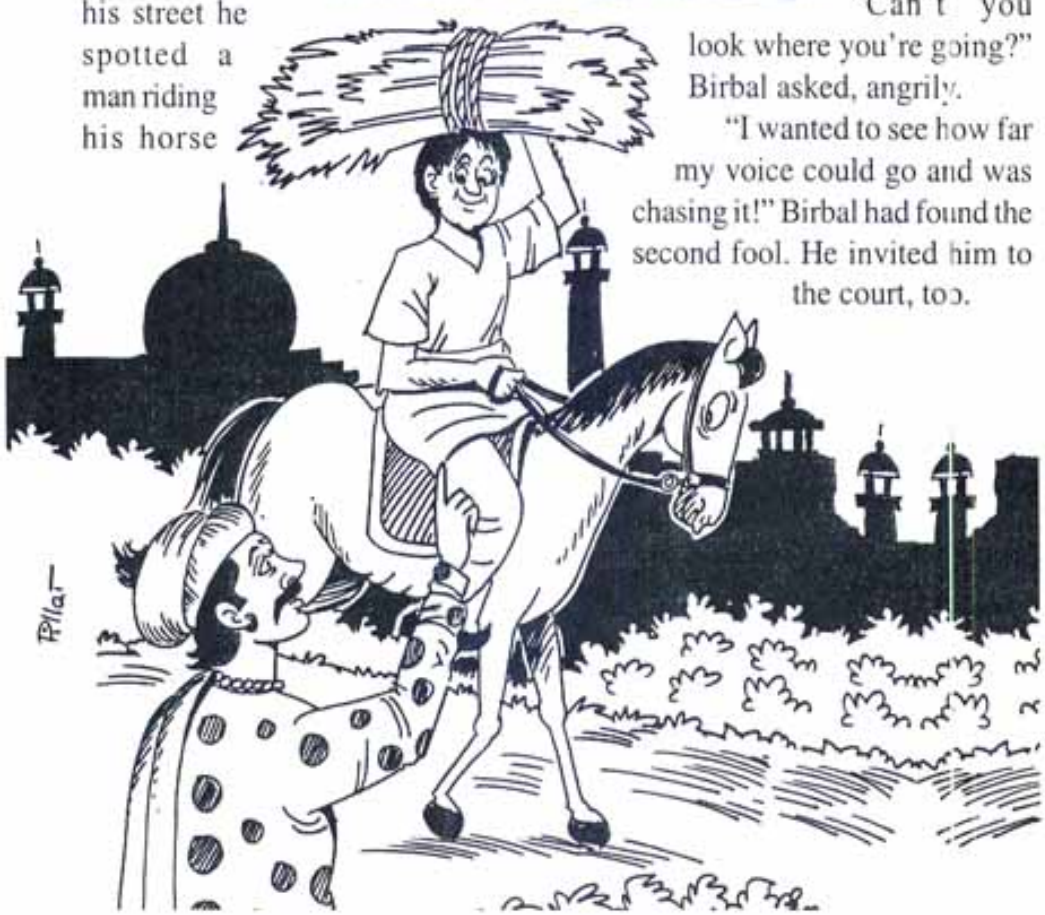
"Why are you carrying the hay on your head?" He stopped the rider and enquired. "Why don't you keep it on the horse?"

"My horse can barely carry my weight. I did not wish to add the extra burden by placing the hay on the horse's back," explained the man.

Birbal was thrilled at finding the first fool. He introduced himself and promised to get the rider a reward from the king, if he came to the court the next day.

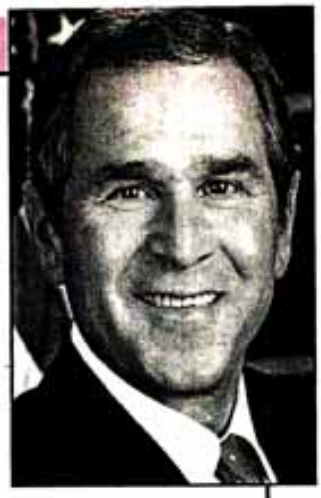
As he walked down the pavement, a man crashed into him. "Can't you look where you're going?" Birbal asked, angrily.

"I wanted to see how far my voice could go and was chasing it!" Birbal had found the second fool. He invited him to the court, too.



SOLUTION TO SPOT IT RIGHT 12

President George Bush



Congratulations!

The five lucky winners are :

1. Rohit Mohan, Std.III, The Asian School, Bahrain
2. S. Priyatharshini, Std.IX, St. Antony's Matric School, Karur, Tamilnadu
3. B. Akash, Std.I, St. Xavier's School, Duliajan, Assam
4. Sameer Abbas, Std.VII, K.V., New Delhi
5. Zainab Vora, Std.VIII, S.N.Kansagra, Rajkot.

Birbal continued his search. In the evening, when he was returning home, he saw a man crouched under the street light looking for something.

"What are you looking for?" Birbal asked.

"I'm looking for my purse which I lost on the way."

"Then why don't you search all along the route you took?" A puzzled Birbal asked.

"How can I find anything when it's so dark, you fool. That's why I'm looking for it under the light!" The man retorted.

Birbal asked this man to come to the court, too.

Next day, Birbal entered the court with the three fools. Akbar was convinced that the three men were really fools.

"But what about the other two?" Akbar asked.

"I'm the fourth fool for having wasted so many days looking for fools," admitted Birbal.

"And who is the fifth fool?" Akbar wanted to know.

"Pardon me, your majesty. Your highness is the fifth fool for giving me a vacation to find fools, when I should have been working for you!" Birbal replied cheekily.

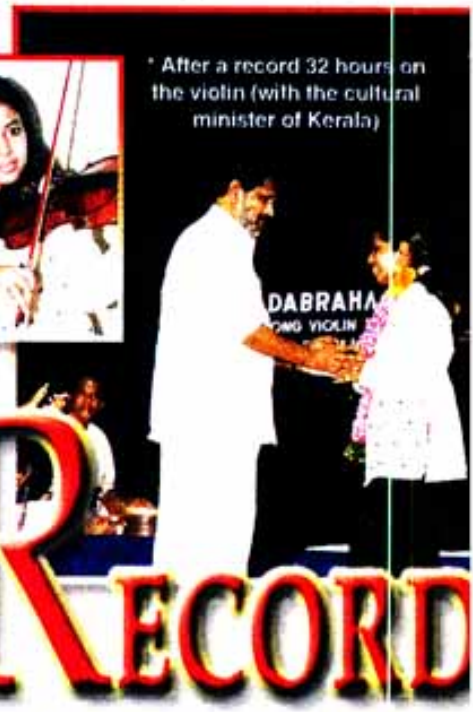
Akbar appreciated Birbal's wit. "Yes, a person should not spend his time in useless pursuits and should work diligently at his job", he agreed.

Birbal was suitably rewarded and so were the other fools!

- R. Prapanna, Std.XI,
Prince Mat. Hr. Sec. School,
Chennai

RECORD

Athira hails from a musical family in Kerala. Her paternal grandfather, Gopala Pillai, belonged to the Guru - Sishya Parampara of Baluswamy Dikshithar who is said to have introduced violin to Indian music. Maharaja Chitra Tirunal of Travancore awarded a gold memento in recognition of the golden voice of Gopala Pillai. Athira's father, Krishna Pillai is an accomplished veena player. Athira is a violinist and is featured in the Guinness Book of Records! How did she manage? Read on....



* After a record 32 hours on the violin (with the cultural minister of Kerala)

At what age did you start learning violin and why?

Born into a musical family, I could sing well by the age of two. By the time I was eight years old, my father discovered my talent in grasping the intricacies of music. Violin is a difficult instrument to learn in the initial stages. But my father was confident that I would do it and I took up violin.

Who inspired you to set up a (Guinness) record? Your father?

Actually, no! He was against it. In November, 2003 he had planned to hold a 'Music Mela' all over Kerala as a tribute to my grandpa on his 7th death anniversary. Somehow, due to organisational problems it didn't materialise. We were already associated with Surya Culture Organisation, Asia's largest cultural organisation headquartered in Trivandrum. I wanted it to be a unique occasion and decided to play the violin continuously for a record 30 hours. My father felt a solemn occasion should not be used for this purpose. After much persuasion and explanation, he was convinced and he gave me the nod. I dedicated the recital to Global Peace & Harmony.

It must have called for a lot of practice, several hours a day!

Oh, yes! I would practise from 3 am to 8 a.m. and again after school from 6.30 p.m. to 2 a.m. for almost

* Balashree Award from Smt. Usha Narayanan

FIDDLER!

four months. Even now I can go without sleep for days!

Amazing! The 'record' performance you say was 30 hours. Do you mean you played without a break? Obviously, you need to eat, sleep etc. Tell me, how exactly do they time it?

I played for 32 hours. After every 8 hours, you are allowed a 15 minute break. I got three such breaks. I was also given a 30 seconds break after each piece.

How many songs / raagas did you play?

901 raagas. They included alapanas, bhajans, etc by 101 composers. I had already made a list and followed it throughout the recital.

Some of our readers might be achievers in various fields. How does one get into the Guinness Book? Whom should one contact?

One can enter the Guinness website and furnish all the particulars. In my case, they then sent me an E-mail giving details. Surya Culture Organisation helped me a lot.

What kind of details / stipulations?

There was no previous record for solo violin Indian music performance. But they need proof. My feat was witnessed by a floating audience of 20,000 people, who signed a register. We attached authoritative reports by the Dean of Music College and Kerala's cultural minister & video recording of the event.

Are you participating in the Chennai Music Festival? As a Soloist or accompanist?

Yes, as a soloist. But I've had to cancel a few, since I propose to go on a European tour shortly.

Do you frequently travel abroad?

I represented India at the International Music Festival in Russia (Moscow, Kazhakistan and Kirgisthan) in 2002. I've also been to Muscat, Doha and Bahrain. I'll be visiting Germany in March, apart from a European tour shortly.

Have you received any awards?

National Balashree Award, 2001. It is the President's award for the best outstanding creative child musician of India. Former first lady of India, Usha Narayanan honoured me with the title 'Musical Gem of India'. I represented India at the International Children's Assembly held at New Delhi in 2001. Rotary club, Chennai honoured me with the 'Prodigy Youth of the Year 2003' award.

* Grandfather Gopala Pillai

How about school? How do you manage?

I had a good academic record. However after I started going for recordings, I had to miss several classes. My grades started slipping. So I decided to give up school and joined IGNOU for +2 (correspondence course).

I think it's really great! Dedicating yourself to music. But how will you prepare for the board exams? Tuitions?

No. I'll be attending (IGNOU) contact programmes at Chennai.

What are your favourite subjects?

Maths and English. I loved physics but I could not take it up because science subjects involve 'practicals'.

You probably don't have much spare time, but do you have any hobbies?

I love painting. In fact I've won the first prize in the Camel colouring contest five times! Reading and writing poetry are also hobbies I pursue. I have won some awards for my English poetry too.

You really are an all rounder! Any plans for the future?

Anybody who has learnt Indian classical music can master any music, be it Greek, Arab, Russian or Jazz. I'm experimenting with Jazz - Carnatic fusion music. At the 25th Filmfare Awards, Trivandrum, I played the violin for the Indian Jazz programme - 'Omniscient Vedas.'

All the best, Athira. By the way, what does Athira mean?

Guess, what? (Laughs) My birth star is 'Tiruvathira'!

Interviewed by : **Priya Ravi**

THE ARREST OF KANCHI ACHARYA

The most sensational news in recent times has been the arrest of the Kanchi Acharya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi. He has been charged with instigating the murder of Sankararaman, a former employee of Sankara mutt in Kanchi. Sankararaman used to write letters to the Acharya finding fault with him and his activities in the mutt and outside it. Hence the alleged conspiracy to finish off Sankararaman. Bail applications of the Sankaracharya have been rejected by the courts in Tamilnadu and the Supreme court has posted further hearing in the appeal to January 6th. Two important witnesses, one accused of hiring goondas and the other of having paid for them, had gone underground. Tamilnadu police have succeeded in finding them to strengthen their case.

★★★

Somnath Chattarjee, speaker of the Lok Sabha offered to resign. He is probably fed up with the opposition for disrupting parliamentary proceedings, despite several requests by him and assurances by members that they will uphold the dignity and decorum of the Lok Sabha. The last straw came when he was accused of 'acting like a dictator'. But later the B.J.P. said that they were referring to the government and not to him. Vajpayee has said that the opposition has faith in the speaker.

* Somnath Chattarjee

* Laloo Prasad

★★★

The arrest of the Kanchi Acharya has taken a political turn with the B.J.P. and Sangh Parivar claiming that it is an attack on Hinduism! The ever effervescent Uma Bharathi has gone to the extent of saying that she sees a conspiracy behind Sonia's silence over the arrest episode!

★★★

Train accidents are becoming very common in our country. "It is murder", remarked the railway minister Laloo Prasad, when two trains coming in opposite directions on the same track, suffered a head on collision. Investigations are on, to find out whether it was human failure or equipment malfunction which resulted in the ghastly accident in Punjab. But passengers are not reassured by such enquiries or statements. They want an end to train accidents resulting in loss of lives.

GLORIOUS MOMENTS

CHESS

Pentyala Harikrishna, the eighteen year old from Andhra, won the coveted World Junior Chess Championship (at Kochi) to become the youngest Indian to win the event! He is the second Indian (after V.Anand) to win the title. Harikrishna had won the U-10 at Spain in 1996.

TENNIS

The recent ATP Tennis Masters series at Houston, the last tennis tournament of 2004, was a perfect end to a perfect year for Federer. Dropping just one set (to Carlos Moya) Federer demolished all his opponents one by one, to win. The only obstacle, during the semi-final encounter, was Marat Safin's thundering serves and powerful groundstrokes. But true to form, Safin threw away chance after chance to get back into the game and Federer brushed him aside to reach the final to beat a hapless Lleyton Hewitt.

Federer is ranked first in th world. Roddick has 731 points. thir ranked Hewitt has 718, Safin has 61: and so on. Federer stands way ahea at – hold your breath – 1267 points Watch out, 2005.

HOCKEY (Men's)

India, the lucky en trants, finished fourth a the Champions Trophy at Lahore. Spain, Holland and Pakistan wor the first three places.

CRICKET

The Test Series between India and South Africa ended in a victory for the home side that just lost the Border-Gavaskar trophy.

People dismiss the first Test-match at Kanpur as 'boring'. But in my opinion, Andrew Hall's fighting

innings in this match was test cricket at its finest. So too, Jacques Kallis, playing against doctor's orders, and scoring a hundred and a fifty in either innings in the Calcutta test.

There's no point going into ecstasies about the Indians' performance. The batting saw Sehwag in the prime of his form but as for the rest, the less said the better. Dravid's strike rate wasn't crossing thirty, Tendulkar was not in form, and both Ganguly and Laxman looked to be past their best.

But Team India is having a wonderful time at Bangladesh. Team members are on a 'record-setting' spree and all kinds of records are being broken! At Dhaka, Sachin's career best 248 not out led India to victory over a hapless Bangladesh. Sachin has now equalled Gavaskar's world record of 34 Test centuries. He has also equalled Rahul Dravid's Indian record of five double centuries. Kumble surpassed Kapil Dev's mark of 434 test wickets to become the highest wicket taker for India. Hurray! Indian cricket enters the New Year with a bang!

FOREIGN STAMPS

100 ALL DIFFERENT, ALL LARGE WHOLE WORLD, USED COMMEMORATIVE STAMP PACKET Rs.100/- BY MONEY ORDER. NO V.P.P ALL STAMPS ARE GENUINE AND CATALOGUED

T.N.K. RAMANUJAM, GE
50, KHANPALAYAM II STREET,
MADURAI - 625 009

NEW YEAR

On New Year's day we would like to start the year with a clean slate. We resolve to give up our bad habits and start developing good habits. Similarly, we put away our failures and move towards a successful future in the 365 days of the New Year. The important thing is to stick to our commitments whatever may be the pitfalls, for there is no gain without pain!

-Atul Krishnan, Std.VI, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tripunithura

I feel New Year resolutions are of no use to us. One tends to forget them a week later or many a time, the next moment! It is better to make resolutions every day of the year and follow them all through the year.

- S.M. Ramyashree, Std.IX, Bapu Girls School, Bangalore

It is no good if we cannot keep up New Year resolutions. We should try out best to keep up our word. Just developing one good habit a year would do. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens. Let us all make resolutions and also try to follow them.

- Ananya Mishra, Std.VII, Ruchika High School, Bhubaneswar

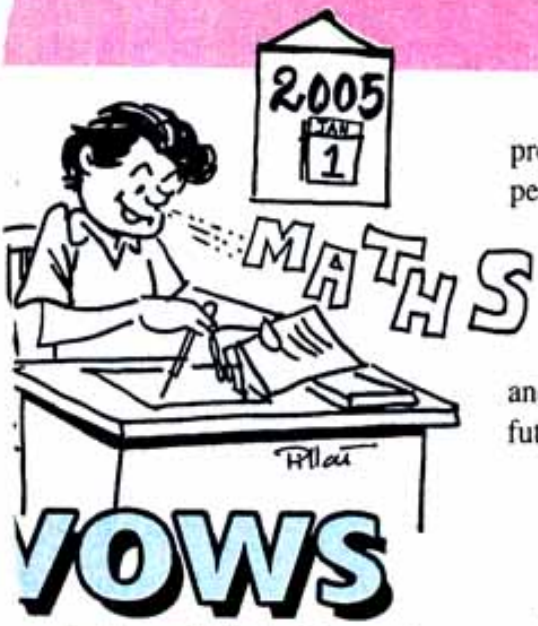
Resolutions made on the First of January are generally forgotten in no time. Very few determined people follow them all through the year. So unless one is sure to keep up his commitment, there is no point in New Year resolutions.

- Shweta Pujar, Std.XI, AEHSS, Kalpakkam

What is life without a plan, aim or ambition. I never fail to make New Year resolutions. In 2005, I propose to help people at the post office, bank or marketplace with simple things like filling forms etc. I also propose to watch my tongue and speak pleasant, sweet words, so as not to hurt others.

- R. Thomas Murphy, Std.VIII, Santa Maria Matric, Trichy

Resolutions are meant to improve ourselves. It requires great de-



ermination which should come from within us and spontaneously. We do not have to wait for New Year's day for this or make a deliberate effort on a particular day. Unlike New Year resolutions which are broken very often, resolutions which come from within will always remain.

- Sruti Mukundan, Std.VIII, DAV Public School, Kolkata

New Year resolutions are good provided they are followed. A lot of people forget them within a week or a month. We should remind ourselves every morning as soon as we wake up. That way we can give up our bad habits and develop our talents for a good future.

- S. Manimaran, Std.X, P.K.N. Boys Hr. Sec. School, Madurai

New Year's Day by itself is a source of inspiration and motivation to do something good. New year resolutions amplify this and give us happiness. I am weak in Maths and I propose to work hard at the subject during the year 2005. It is a promise I mean to keep.

- Tirthankar Mishra, Std.VI, BJEM School, Bhubaneswar

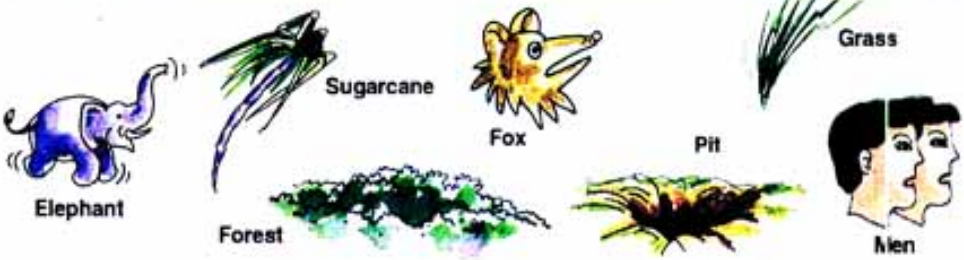
QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

February 28th is observed as National Science Day. To become a great scientist, maybe even a Nobel laureate, does one have to go abroad? Can you achieve such a goal in India?

Send us your views by 12.01.05. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs.25/- Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non-residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP!

Story : **M. Azhagurajan** *Pic :* **Shekhar**



In a thick a had been dug to trap an . The had been covered with and a had been planted into it.An came along. Tempted by the , it rushed towards the and fell into it. The trapped started trumpetting in anguish. A that heard the moan rushed to the spot and found the trapped . The asked the how it had fallen into the . "Tempted by the I fell into this ", cried the . "Don't you trod this path everyday? When you came this way yesterday, did you see this ?' The asked. "No," said the . "Oh, foolish , shouldn't you have pondered, how the that was not there yesterday, suddenly appeared today? Oh, ! You are such a strong animal but your brains are not sharp enough," said the . "Anyway we have to save you from the . You quietly lie down in this . I'll again spread the and over it. Don't move. After the have left in disappointment, I'll somehow rescue you", said the . Thus the was saved by the clever .

Natrine Wishes a HAPPY & SWEET 2005

nutrine

India's largest selling sweets and toffees.

Registered with the Registrar of Newspaper of India under No. 49688/88 * Registered No. TN / PMG (CCR) 492 / 03 - 05*
Licensed to post without prepayment under PMG's Licence No. WPP 301/03 - 05 * Registered as a Newspaper in Srilanka

MILKA

WONDER CAKE

அற்புதமான ஆறு சுவைகளில்